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MEMOIRS
OF
JOHN NICHOLS, ESQ. F.S.A.
WITH
TRIBUTES OF RESPECT TO HIS MEMORY.

PORTRAITS OF MR. NICHOLS.

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MEMOIR OF JOHN NICHOLS, ESQ. F.S.A.

[Written in 1826, by ALEXANDER CHALMERS, Esq. F.S.A.]

JOHN NICHOLS, a man who afforded an eminent exemplar of personal probity, and whose long life was spent in the promotion of useful knowledge, was the descendant of a respectable family. His grandfather was Bartholomew Nichols, of Piccadilly, in the parish of St. James's, Westminster. His father, Edward Nichols, was born in the same place, Oct. 18, 1719, but resided during the greater part of his life at Islington, in Middlesex, where he died Jan. 29, 1779, in the sixtieth year of his age. He married Anne, daughter of Thomas Wilmot of Beckingham, near Gainsborough, Lincolnshire. She was born in the same year with her husband, and died Dec. 27, 1783, aged 64. Of all their children, two only survived, John, the subject of this Memoir, and Anne, wife of Edward Bentley, Esq.*

Our author was born at Islington, Feb. 2, 1744-5. For the place of his nativity he always retained a great affection. It was the scene of the happy days of his childhood, to which he adverts in the following affecting lines, part of a sketch of his life, printed, but not published, in 1803:—"In the summer of 1803, he in a considerable degree withdrew from the trammels of business to a house in his native village, where he hopes (*Deo volente*) to pass the evening of a laborious life in the calm enjoyment of domestic tranquillity; and that his earthly remains may (at a period which he neither looks forward to with terror, nor wishes to anticipate,) be deposited with those of several near relations, whose loss he has long deplored, in the church-yard where many of his happiest days were passed in harmless sports." How little do we see of the future! Mr. Nichols had then before him twenty-three years devoted to as arduous labour as any which he had ever sustained.

He was educated at an academy kept by Mr. John Shield, a man

* Mrs. Anne Bentley died Nov. 19, 1836, aged 80; and Edward Bentley, esq. who was Principal of the Accountant's Office in the Bank of England, died July 24, 1838, aged 85. There is an excellent portrait of him by Daniel Maelise, esq., R.A. See an account of Mr. Bentley in *Gent. Mag.* 1838, ii. 337. They had four sons: 1. Samuel Bentley, printer; 2. John, Secretary of the Bank of England; 3. William, one of the Chief Clerks of the Bank; 4. Richard, publisher in ordinary to Her Majesty. Also, five daughters; two only of whom survive, Sarah and Isabella.

of considerable learning, who appears to have taken great pains in cultivating the talents of such as, like the subject of this Memoir, recommended themselves by attention and docility.

The profession which Mr. Nichols followed, with so much success and reputation, during the whole of his long life, was not that for which he was originally destined by some part of his family. It is frequently the case with the guardians of youth, or their advisers, to be determined by petty circumstances and indistinct prospects, in the disposal of those who are under their care. Mr. Nichols had a maternal uncle, Lieutenant Thomas Wilmot, a brave officer, who in 1747 was serving under Captain, afterwards Admiral, Barrington, when he captured the Duke of Chartres East Indiaman, and was in a fair way to higher promotion. This appears to have induced the friends of Mr. Nichols, who was of a good constitution and lively temper, to propose that, at a proper time, he should be taken under this uncle's protection, and educated for the naval service. Mr. Wilmot's death, however, which happened in 1751, put an end to the hopes derived from this scheme. Our author remarks, but with no great regret: "Had his life been spared, I should, instead of having been employed as a pioneer of literature, probably have been engaged, under the banners of the gallant Admiral, in the naval defence of my country."

He was too young, when his uncle died, to feel the loss, or to indulge dreams of naval glory, and soon had the happiness to be placed in a situation which proved more suitable to his inclinations, and more adapted to his talents. The kindness of Providence guided him to a master who soon discerned his worth, and to a branch of literature in which his success and industry have never been exceeded.

This master was the celebrated Mr. WILLIAM BOWYER, who, at his death, was termed "the last of learned English printers," a title which may now be dropped, while it is still allowed that he was almost the first of that distinguished class in England, and qualified both by education and learning to be the companion and adviser of the most eminent scholars who flourished in the early part of the eighteenth century. He came into business with the advantages of an university education, and an intercourse with many learned men who had been his contemporaries at Cambridge.

It was in 1757, before Mr. Nichols was quite thirteen years of age, that he was placed under Mr. Bowyer, who appears to have quickly discovered in his pupil that amiable and honourable disposition which distinguished him all his life. He had a tenacious memory, which was but little impaired even in his latter days. He was likewise very early a lover of books, although, like most youths, who think more of gratifying curiosity than of procuring permanent advantages, his reading was desultory, and for some years his choice depended on the works submitted to his master's press, few of which, happily for him, were of a trifling, and none of a pernicious kind. From the moment he became Mr. Bowyer's apprentice, he was intent on the

acquisition of solid knowledge, and to this he was continually prompted, not only by the instructions of his master, but by the nature of his employment. He was gradually inspired with a certain degree of ambition, of which he probably knew neither the extent or end, in consequence of intercourse with the men of learning for whom Mr. Bowyer printed.

Mr. Nichols had not been long in this advantageous situation, when his master gladly admitted him into his confidence, and intrusted him with cares which, in case of many young men, would have been considered as unsuitable to their age, and requiring a more lengthened trial. But, besides the indispensable qualities of industry and integrity, Mr. Bowyer found in his young apprentice another merit which was of great importance to his press. Mr. Nichols brought with him no small portion of classical knowledge and taste, acquired at school, and cultivated at his leisure hours.

Of this he speaks with his accustomed modesty: "He never affected to possess any superior share of erudition; content, if in plain and intelligible terms, either in conversation or in writing, he could contribute his quota of information or entertainment." The present writer, however, has seen some early as well as later proofs that his acquaintance with Latin was never dropped, and it is certain that his employment was a continual excitement to acquire some knowledge of the learned languages. At a very advanced period of life he speaks with exultation of his having been first employed, as a compositor, on Toup's "*Emendationes in Suidam*," and other works of classical criticism.

Mr. Bowyer appears to have been not only the instructive master, but the kind and indulgent friend to his apprentice, and was often anxious to amuse him by conveying a taste for poetry; of which Mr. Nichols had afforded some specimens. Of these Mr. Bowyer thought so favourably, that in 1760, when our author was only in his sixteenth year, he enjoined him, as an evening's task, to translate a Latin poem of his own, published in 1733, and entitled "*Bellus homo et Academicus*." This Mr. Nichols executed with considerable spirit and humour, and in the following year (1761) Mr. Bowyer associated him with himself in translating the Westminster Verses which had been spoken on the previous Coronation of George the Second.

The applause bestowed on these efforts very naturally led Mr. Nichols to become a more constant votary of the muses, and from 1761 to 1766 his productions made no inconsiderable figure in the periodical journals. In 1763 he published two poetical pamphlets in 4to. the one entitled "*Islington, a Poem*," and the other "*The Buds of Parnassus*," which was republished in 1764, with some additional poems. In 1765, he contributed several poems to a miscellaneous collection, published by Dr. Perfect of Town Mall, under the title of "*The Laurel Wreath*," 2 vols. 8vo. His occasional productions of this kind, when further advanced, will be noticed hereafter.

During his minority he produced some prose essays on the manners of the age, such as they appeared to one who had been no inattentive observer. These were published in a periodical paper, written chiefly by Kelly, entitled "The Babblers," and in the Westminster Journal, a newspaper, under the signature of "The Cobbler of Alsatia."

These were merely his amusements, and indicative of an ambition which at his early age was surely pardonable. His more serious hours were devoted to the business of the press. His leading object was to please his master in the superintendence of the learned works printed by Mr. Bowyer, and in this he succeeded so well, that the relative situations of master and servant soon merged in a friendship, the compound of affection on the one side, and of reverence on the other.

So amply had he fulfilled Mr. Bowyer's expectations as to prudence and judgment, that before his apprenticeship expired he sent him to Cambridge to treat with that University for a lease of their exclusive privilege of printing Bibles. This was a negotiation which required great delicacy and presence of mind, and these Mr. Nichols preserved on every interview. His endeavours proved unsuccessful only because the University determined, on a due consideration of the matter, to keep the property in their own hands.

This journey, however, to our young aspirant was delightful. He had never before travelled but a very few miles from his native place, and in Cambridge and its colleges he found every thing that could increase his enthusiasm for literary pursuits. He made minutes of this tour, which, he used to say, afforded him the most pleasing recollections at a far distant period of life. His remarks on the passing objects on the journey, prove that he had already imbibed somewhat of the topographer's inquisitive spirit; and at Cambridge he indulged in the delights of "local emotion," by contemplating with reverence the colleges in which some eminent scholars, with whom he had already become acquainted, had studied. On one occasion, he says, "Visited Peter-house, not without a respectful thought of Mr. Markland." During his return likewise he exhibited some promising appearances of the *viator curiosus*.

Soon after, Mr. Bowyer gave another proof of the value he placed on Mr. Nichols's services, when the period of them expired, by returning to his father half of his apprentice-fee. But the high estimate he had formed of him did not end here. He appears to have been long convinced that Mr. Nichols's assistance was of great importance in his printing establishment. Accordingly, in 1766, he took him into partnership, and in the following year they removed their office from White Friars to Red-lion-passage, Fleet-street, where it remained until 1820. This union, one of the most cordial that ever was formed, lasted until the death of Mr. Bowyer in 1777.

As Mr. Bowyer continued to be not only the printer, but the intimate friend and assistant in the learned labours of some of the first scholars of the age, Mr. Nichols had frequent opportunities, which he

never neglected, of acquiring the notice and esteem of those gentlemen. He had not, indeed, been long associated with Mr. Bowyer as a partner, before he began to be considered as his legitimate successor, and acquired the esteem and patronage of Mr. Bowyer's friends in no common degree. This he lived to repay by handing down to posterity many important circumstances of their lives, frequently derived from personal knowledge, which but for his industry and research, and the confidence bestowed upon him by their families, must have been lost to the world.

The first publication in which he was concerned as an author, was "The Origin of Printing, in two Essays: 1. The substance of Dr. Middleton's Dissertation on the Origin of Printing in England. 2. Mr. Meerman's account of the invention of the art at Harleim, and its progress to Mentz, with occasional remarks, and an Appendix," 8vo. 1774. Mr. Nichols informs us that the "original idea of this pamphlet was Mr. Bowyer's; the completion of it his partner's." Mr. Nichols's share, therefore, must have been very considerable. It was published without a name, and at first was attributed to Mr. Bowyer, but the respective shares of him and his partner were soon discovered. A second edition, with many improvements, appeared in 1776, and a supplement in 1781. The foreign journals spoke with as much respect of this work as those at home.

Mr. Nichols derived considerable fame from it. He was now enabled to add to the number of his literary friends the names of Sir James Burrough and Sir John Pringle, as he had before acquired the esteem and acquaintance of Dr. Birch, Dr. Parsons, Dr. Warton, Dr. Farmer, and the Earl of Marchmont. Sir John Pringle was accustomed to submit his prize-medal speeches, which he intended for the Royal Society, to Mr. Nichols's perusal, before delivery, an honour of which so young a man may be forgiven if he was somewhat proud.

As the works which passed through Mr. Bowyer's press engaged a more than common attention on the part of Mr. Nichols, he happened very early in life to conceive a high opinion of the merits of Dean Swift, in consequence of Mr. Bowyer's having printed the 13th and 14th volumes of his Works in the year 1762. Of Dean Swift Mr. Nichols appears never to have lost sight from this time, and, applying himself closely in search of materials, he published three supplemental volumes, 1775, 1776, and 1779, 8vo. to Dr. Hawkesworth's edition. These were republished afterwards so as to correspond with Hawkesworth's 4to. 8vo. and 12mo. editions; and afterwards incorporated, with many additions and valuable biographical notes, in what may be now justly considered as the standard edition, first printed in 19 vols. 8vo. in 1800, and reprinted in 1808. Mr. Nichols's accuracy and judgment as an editor were so completely established by the appearance of the first-mentioned volume, that information respecting unpublished letters and tracts was sent to him from all quarters. Sheridan's Life was the only part which he considered necessary to

retain as originally published, since it was supposed by many (but certainly not by the writer of this memoir) to furnish a defence of the objectionable parts of Swift's personal history. But, whatever the merits of this celebrated author, it appears incontestably from the preface to the second volume that the public is indebted to Mr. Nichols for the very complete state in which his Works are found.

The next publication of our author, the "Original Works, in Prose and Verse, of William King, LL.D. with Historical Notes," 3 vols. small 8vo. 1776, afforded another decided proof of that taste for literary history and illustration to which we owe the more important obligations which Mr. Nichols conferred by his recent and voluminous contributions to the biography of men of learning. It is evident that he must have been very early accustomed to inquiry and investigation, which enabled him to satisfy the curiosity of the reader so amply as he has done in King's Works. This publication likewise exhibits an extraordinary proof of diligence both in business and study, when we consider that at this time he had scarcely reached his thirty-first year, and had the cares of a young family, just deprived of their maternal parent, to perplex and afflict his mind, with the numerous engagements in which his partnership with Mr. Bowyer, and intimacy with their common friends, necessarily involved him. But it may be noticed here, although not for the last time, that Mr. Nichols possessed not only extraordinary judgment in the allotment of his hours, but had equally extraordinary health and spirits to sustain him, amidst the intenseness of industry, and the frequent calls of complicated avocations. In both the above-mentioned works he acknowledges having been assisted by his friend Isaac Reed, of Staples Inn, a man who never was consulted on points of literary history without advantage.

In 1778 Mr. Nichols obtained a share in the Gentleman's Magazine, of which he became the editor. This was an event of the greatest importance to all his subsequent pursuits, as well as to the public at large. Of this publication it would be superfluous to say much in this place, after the ample history of its rise and progress published by its Editor in 1821, as a Preface to the General Index from 1787 to 1818. It had not been long under his care before it obtained a consequence which it had never before reached, although the preceding volumes were formed from the contributions of some of the most able scholars and antiquaries of the time. The celebrated Burke entitled it "one of the most chaste and instructive Miscellanies of the age." This Mr. Nichols found it, and this he left it, with such improvements, however, as rendered it of paramount importance to men of literary curiosity, and of great effect in the promotion of right principles. In 1782, Dr. Warton complimented him in these words: "Your Magazine is justly in the greatest credit here (Winchester), and under your guidance is become one of the most useful and entertaining Miscellanies I know."

It might be easy, were it necessary, to add to these the suffrages of some of the most eminent writers of the last half-century. As a repository of literary history and of public transactions for a much longer period, it is without a rival, a circumstance at which we cannot be surprised, when we consider that it contains the early, as well as the more mature, lucubrations of many hundred authors in every department of literature. In the history of the Magazine, noticed above, Mr. Nichols has given a list of above five hundred men of note, who had been correspondents in his time, and whom he had survived. Nearly an equal number might be added of those who have died since that list was made out, and of those who are still living, and lamenting the loss of one who afforded many of them the means of being first introduced to public notice.

In order to render the various information contained in this Magazine more easily accessible, Mr. Nichols published in 1786 a complete Index to the first fifty-four volumes, compiled by the Rev. Samuel Ayscough; and in 1819 two more volumes of Indexes were printed. Both Indexes served to increase the demand for complete sets of the Magazine.

Gibbon the historian had such a value for this Miscellany, that he recommended to Mr. Nichols a selection of the most curious and useful articles. Mr. Nichols was too much employed to have leisure for such an undertaking; but it was afterwards accomplished with great judgment, in 4 vols. by the Rev. John Walker, of New College, Oxford.*

In noticing the Gentleman's Magazine while under Mr. Nichols's care, the present writer will not attempt that which Mr. Nichols would have disdained, any comparison between it and its rivals. This indeed becomes the less necessary, as they have all dropped into oblivion with the exception of a few of recent date, in which no rivalry seems intended. It may be added, however, that his plan was calculated for permanence. It depended on none of the frivolous fashions of the age. Its general character was usefulness, combined with rational entertainment. Its supporters were men of learning, who found in its pages an easy mode of communicating their doubts and their inquiries, with a certainty that their doubts would be resolved, and their inquiries answered by men equal to the task. The Miscellany was particularly recommended by the impartiality of the Editor, who admitted controversialists to the most equal welcome, and never interfered but when, out of respect to his numerous readers, it became his duty to check the rudeness of personal reflection. In the course of such controversies he must not be suspected of acceding to every proposition advanced either in warmth or in calmness, and much was no doubt admitted of which he could not approve. But his own principles remained unshaken, principles early adopted, and favourable to piety and political

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happiness; and such he preserved and supported amidst the most alarming storms to which his country had ever been exposed. Whatever anomalies may be occasionally perceived in the effusions of some of his correspondents, if the whole of his administration be examined, it will be found that the main object and tendency of the Magazine was to support our excellent Constitution in Church and State, especially when in some latter years both were in danger from violence without and treachery within.

The sentiments of two very eminent and learned dignitaries of the Church, with the perusal of which we have been favoured since Mr. Nichols's death, may, we hope, without breach of confidence, be added to the above. Mr. Nichols "was an able, and, what is much more, he was a perfectly honest man. We can ill afford to lose him. As an excellent antiquary, as a friend to literary men, and as a liberal, but thoroughly attached, son of the Church of England, his memory will long live in the esteem and recollection of his friends."*—"It is my firm opinion, that, in the various productions which during so long a period issued from his press, not a line escaped which could be detrimental to the influence of Christianity; but, on the contrary, particularly in the conduct of that leading work, the '*Gentleman's Magazine*,' the genuine principles of orthodox religion have been advocated and diffused in this nation by its channel for the longest portion of a century. And, even in the amusing and instructive articles of a literary and antiquarian cast, this leading purpose seems not to have been lost sight of. While he (Mr. Nichols) sojourned with us, he was by the kindness and benevolence of his heart the delight of his friends, and must be considered as an eminent benefactor to his country."†

There was no part of the Magazine on which Mr. Nichols bestowed more attention than on the record of deaths, now known by the name of OBITUARY. In order to render this an article of authority, and often indeed it has been quoted as such, he was indefatigable in his inquiries, anxiously consulted his numerous friends, and had very often the advantage of original documents from the relatives of persons of various classes, whose history might be interesting to the public. In this he not only gratified immediate curiosity, but laid the foundation of those more extended accounts which afterwards appeared in works professedly biographical. The warmth of friendship and the recency of grief might no doubt sometimes give a high colouring to these reports, which became chastened on further reflection and inquiry; but corrections or additions were impartially admitted, and the Editor at least was accessible to every communication which tended to establish the truth.

It may here be noticed that many of the additional articles in the Biographical Dictionary which he edited, in conjunction with Dr. Heathcote, in 1784, came from Mr. Nichols. How ably, and kindly, he assisted in the late edition of that work, completed in 1817, 32 vols.

* Bp. Law. See p. xxix.

† Dean Rennell. See p. xxxi.

8vo. can never be forgotten by its Editor, who hopes hereafter* to acknowledge it more amply than merely by a reference to Mr. Nichols's printed works.

Although Mr. Bowyer's press had not issued many works interesting to English antiquaries, Mr. Nichols appears, before the period to which we are now arrived, to have formed such connections as gradually encouraged what was early in his mind, until his inquiries became fixed on subjects relating to the antiquities of his own country. Among these preceptors we may notice Dr. Samuel Pegge, Dr. Borlase, Samuel Denne, and Dr. Ducarel. With the latter he was long linked in friendship, and, in conjunction with him, published in 1779 the "History of the Royal Abbey of Bec, near Rouen," and "Some Account of the Alien Priories, and of such Lands as they are known to have possessed in England and Wales," 2 vols. But he had another coadjutor in these two works, of incalculable value, the celebrated RICHARD GOUGH, Esq.

This very eminent antiquary, justly entitled the Camden of the Eighteenth Century, was, like Bowyer, an early discernor of Mr. Nichols's worth, and saw in him an able and useful assistant in his multifarious endeavours to illustrate the antiquities of Great Britain. Mr. Gough was his senior by ten years, and a higher proficient in his favourite studies. At what precise time they became acquainted we have not been able to discover, but it seems, with much probability, to have been about the year 1770, when the first volume of the *Archæologia* was printed by Mr. Nichols, to whom Mr. Bowyer, from declining health, had almost entirely resigned the business of the press. Some years before this Mr. Gough had been a frequent correspondent in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, a publication constantly read by Mr. Nichols,† when there was little prospect of his becoming its chief support, or of Mr. Gough's taking so active a part in the management of it as to become nearly a co-editor. It is probable that their intimacy was perfected whilst Mr. Gough was superintending his friend Mr. Hutchins's "History of Dorsetshire" through the press. That work was issued in two volumes, fol. 1774.

Their connexion, at whatever time begun, ended in a strict intimacy and cordial friendship, which terminated only in the death of Mr. Gough in 1809. It was a friendship uninterruptedly strengthened by congeniality of pursuits, mutual esteem, and the kindness of domestic intercourse. On their final separation Mr. Nichols says with unfeigned feeling: "The loss of Mr. Gough was the loss of more than a brother; it was losing a part of himself. For a long series of years he had experienced in Mr. Gough the kind, disinterested friend; the prudent,

[* This alludes to the proposed edition of the *Biographical Dictionary* upon which Mr. Chalmers was engaged.]

† [One of the first communications of Mr. Nichols to the *Gentleman's Magazine* was in July, 1765, p. 335: "Spring, a Poem," inscribed to Mr. Tooke.]

judicious adviser; the firm, unshaken patron. To him every material event in life was confidentially imparted. In those that were prosperous, no man more heartily rejoiced; in such as were less propitious, no man more sincerely condoled, or more readily endeavoured to alleviate." Mr. Nichols has since lost no opportunity of honouring the memory of his departed friend, both in his "Literary Anecdotes" and in his "Illustrations of Literary History." His last office of duty was to select and transfer to the Bodleian Library, Oxford, the valuable collection of Topography, printed and MS., which Mr. Gough bequeathed to that noble repository.*

In 1780 Mr. Nichols published a very curious "Collection of Royal and Noble Wills," 4to. In this work he acknowledges his obligations to Mr. Gough and to Dr. Ducarel, for obtaining transcripts and elucidating by notes. It was a scheme originally suggested by Dr. Ducarel, probably in consequence of the publication of the Will of Henry VII. by Mr. Astle some years before. To this work, in 1794, Mr. Nichols added the will of Henry VIII. which is now seldom to be found with the preceding, itself a work of great rarity.

Amidst these more serious employments, Mr. Nichols diverted his leisure hours by compiling a work, which seems to have been entirely of his own projection, and the consequence of early predilection. This appeared in 1780, with the title of "A Select Collection of Miscellaneous Poems, with Historical and Biographical Notes," 4 vols. small 8vo. To these were added, in 1782, four other volumes, with a general poetical Index. In this curious work, he has not only revived many pieces of unquestionable merit, which had long been forgotten, but produced some originals from the pens of men of acknowledged genius. In so large a collection are some which might perhaps have been allowed to remain in obscurity without much injury to the public, but even in the production of these he followed the opinion, and had the encouragement, of some of the best critics of the time, Bishops Lowth and Percy, Dr. Warton, Mr. Kynaston, &c. The biographical notes were deemed very interesting, and were happily the occasion of a similar improvement being made to Dodsley's Collection of Poems, in the edition of 1782, if we mistake not, by Isaac Reed. In Mr. Nichols's collection are a few of his juvenile attempts at versification, of which he says, "they will at least serve as a foil to the beauties with which they are surrounded." Mr. Nichols never claimed a high rank among poets, but there is evidently too much disparagement in the above opinion.

In the same year (1780), on the suggestion and with the assistance of Mr. Gough, he began to publish the "Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica," a work intended to collect such articles of British Topography, manuscript or printed, as were in danger of being lost, or were become so scarce as to be out of the reach of most collectors. His

[* See p. 644 of this volume.]

reputation was now so fully established that he had ready assistance from most of the eminent antiquaries of that day; and in 1790 the whole was concluded in fifty-two parts or numbers, making eight large quarto volumes, illustrated by more than three hundred plates, with great exactness and accuracy, both in these and in the letter-press. A continuation was begun some time after, under the title of "Miscellaneous Antiquities," of which six numbers were published.

It is to be feared Mr. Nichols was a considerable loser by this work, not only in the expenses of printing and engraving, but in the purchase of manuscripts and drawings. He could not indeed have been long connected with Mr. Gough without imbibing a portion of his disinterested spirit, and looking for his best reward in the pleasure of the employment, and the consciousness that he was contributing much valuable information for the use of posterity and the honour of his country. Mr. Nichols thought as little of expense as of fatigue, and to the fear of either he seems to have been an entire stranger. His success, however, was not different from that of his brethren, for we know no class of writers worse rewarded than antiquaries.

The publication of the *Bibliotheca Topographica* took up ten years, and in some hands might have been quite sufficient to employ the whole of those years. But such was the unwearied industry of our author, that within the same period no less than eighteen publications issued from his press, of all which he was either editor or author.

As a complete list of his works is given in the Sixth Volume of the *Literary Anecdotes*, we shall only notice here those which are more particularly connected with his researches as a Biographer. In 1781 he published in 8vo. "Biographical Anecdotes of William Hogarth." This was republished in 1782, again in 1785, and a fourth and most complete edition in 1810—1817, in 3 vols, 4to. with very elegant reduced plates. Of this work, on its first appearance, the testimony of Lord Orford may be considered as decisive:—"Since the first edition of this work (the *Anecdotes of Painting*), a much ampler account of Hogarth and his Works has been given by Mr. Nichols; which is not only more accurate, but much more satisfactory than mine: omitting nothing that a collector would wish to know, either with regard to the history of the painter himself, or to the circumstances, different editions, and variations of his prints. I have completed my list of Hogarth's Works from that source of information."* In 1822 Mr. Nichols superintended a superb edition of Hogarth's works, from the original plates, restored by James Heath, esq., and furnished the Explanations of the subjects of the Plates. Let it not be forgotten that these Explanations were written by Mr. Nichols in his seventy-eighth year.

In the same year (1781) he was the author of "Biographical

* Lord Orford's Works, 4to. vol. iii. p. 453.

Memoirs of William Ged, including a particular account of his progress in the art of Block-printing." But what in the course of years, and by slow gradations, almost imperceptibly became the most important of all Mr. Nichols's biographical labours, was his "Anecdotes of Bowyer, and of many of his literary Friends," 4to. 1782. He had printed in 1778 twenty copies of "Brief Memoirs of Mr. Bowyer," 8vo. for distribution, "as a tribute of respect, amongst a few select friends." Gratitude to so kind a benefactor induced Mr. Nichols to make, from time to time, additions to this little work, quite unconscious that it would at last extend to the noblest monument raised to his own memory, as well as that of his friend.

The second and much enlarged edition of 1782 was welcomed with ardour by all classes of men of literature, and soon rose to more than double the price at which it was originally offered to the public. The author was consequently again anxious to enlarge what was so generally acceptable, but had to encounter many interruptions from other extensive designs which he now began to meditate.

Of these the most important of all was his "History of Leicestershire," of which it has been justly said that it might have been the work of a whole life. Although generally devoted to subjects of the topographical kind, he acknowledged to the present writer that he had been induced to fix upon Leicestershire as his *magnum opus*, from circumstances of a domestic kind, both his amiable wives having sprung from respectable families in that county.

This, however, like the other extensive work just mentioned, was not the accomplishment of a complete design, distinctly laid down in plan, and regularly executed. It grew from lesser efforts, among which we may enumerate "The History and Antiquities of Hinckley," which he published in 1782, 4to.; "The History and Antiquities of Aston Flamvile and Burbach, in Leicestershire," 1787, 4to.; "Collections towards the History and Antiquities of the Town and County of Leicester," 1790, 2 vols. 4to. It was in the preface to these volumes that he first intimated his intention to give the public a much more complete work of the kind, soliciting assistance, which appears to have been tendered so liberally, that about 1792 he was enabled to begin to print his great work of "The History and Antiquities of the Town and County of Leicester," of which Parts I. and II. were published in 1795. Of this a third part was published in 1798, a fourth in 1800, a fifth in 1804, a sixth in 1807, the seventh and concluding part in 1811, and an Appendix in 1815, in which he was assisted by his son; the whole making eight large folio volumes, illustrated by a profusion of views, portraits, maps, &c. and complete Indexes.

If any proofs were wanting of Mr. Nichols's *power* of literary labour, and, what is equally necessary, the frequent *revision* of that labour, the History of Leicestershire might be allowed to remain as

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1750



John Nichols Esq^r

completely decisive. But even this extensive undertaking cannot be allowed to stand alone. During the years in which he was preparing his materials, travelling into all parts of the county, and corresponding with or visiting every person likely to afford information, he appeared as editor or author of no less than forty-seven articles.—Among these were a second edition of "Bowyer's Greek Testament;" "Bishop Atterbury's Correspondence," 5 vols. 8vo. illustrated, as usual, with topographical and historical notes, the result of arduous research and frequent correspondence with his learned friends; "A Collection of Miscellaneous Tracts by Mr. Bowyer;" "The History and Antiquities of Lambeth Parish;" "The Progresses and Royal Processions of Queen Elizabeth," 2 vols. 4to. and a third in 1804; "The History and Antiquities of Canonbury, with some account of the parish of Islington," 4to.; "Illustrations of the Manners and Expenses of Ancient Times in England," 4to. In 1815, the author speaks of this volume: "I have no hesitation in saying, in a case where it can neither promote my interest nor hazard my veracity, that this is not only one of the scarcest publications of the eighteenth century, but, in its way, is also one of the most curious."

During the same period Mr. Nichols published, in conjunction with Dr. Calder, an edition of "The Tatler," 6 vols. 8vo. with notes respecting biography, but particularly illustrative of manners. From the sources that had supplied many of these, he edited afterwards, "Sir Richard Steele's Epistolary Correspondence," 2 vols. 8vo.; "The Lover and Reader;" "The Town Talk, &c.;" "The Theatre and Anti-Theatre," by the same author, 3 vols. all illustrated with notes, furnished from many forgotten records and family communications. Mr. Nichols appears to have first turned his attention to the British Essayists in consequence of his connexion with Bishop Percy, Dr. Calder, and others, who intended to publish editions of the Tatler, Spectator, and Guardian, with the same species of annotation, explanatory of the manners and spirit of the times, and including memoirs of the authors. When they entered on their work there was a possibility of recovering much information, and much information was recovered; a considerable part of which we have since seen added to various editions of these periodical writings, frequently without the candour of acknowledgment.

The extent of Mr. Nichols's literary productions will yet appear more extraordinary, when we add that, during the period we have hastily gone over, he became engaged in some of those duties of public life which necessarily demanded a considerable portion of time and attention; and it may be asked, without much hazard of a ready answer, where could he find that time? Certain it is that he did find it, without any apparent injury to his usual pursuits, and that for many years he enjoyed a well-earned reputation as a member of the Corporation of London.

In December, 1784, the respect he had acquired in the City induced his friends to propose him as a member of the Common Council for the ward of Farringdon Without. He was accordingly elected on the 21st of that month, and, with the interval of only one year, held this situation (ten years as deputy, under Alderman Wilkes) until the year 1811, when he resigned all civic honours.* He had previously (in 1807) declined the solicitation of his fellow-citizens of the ward to become their Alderman on the death of Wilkes. A considerable time before his resignation he had felt it his duty to seek health and quiet in retirement, but it is also more than probable that the prevalence of party spirit among those with whom he had been accustomed to act, but could act no longer, had its effect in precipitating a measure which many of his friends wished he had taken much sooner. The writer of this Memoir hopes he will not be thought anxious to take from the number of Mr. Nichols's useful accomplishments, when he adds that his highly-respected friend was not qualified for political life, as it too frequently appeared among many with whom he was obliged to associate. He could not indulge asperity of thought or of language; he had nothing of the malevolence of party spirit, and never thought worse of any man for differing from him, ever so widely, in opinion. Unfit, however, as he was to join in the clamour of the day, he retained the respect of his colleagues as an amiable and honest man, and an honour to the situation he had filled.

In 1804 his views were directed to an honour more in unison with his literary pursuits. He had for some time been a member of the Court of Assistants of the Stationers' Company, and in the above year attained what he called "the summit of his ambition, in being elected Master of the Company." Nor can any one think such ambition of the trivial kind who recollects how nearly connected this Company is with the literature of the age, and that among its members are to be found the liberal and munificent patrons of learned men, who are no longer dependent on the petty rewards which in former days flowed, tardily enough sometimes, from the blandishments of *dedication*.

How well Mr. Nichols discharged the duties of Master of the Company, not only on this occasion, but for many years after as *locum tenens*, has been repeatedly acknowledged, and still lives in the memory of the Court. Their rooms are decorated by portraits presented at various times by Mr. Nichols,† among which are those of Robert Nelson, Esq. the elder William Bowyer, Archbishop Chichele, Sir Richard Steele, and Matthew Prior; with a bust of Mr. Bowyer the younger, and with the quarto copper-plate, finely engraved by the

[* See in this volume, p. 566, his Letter to Sir Charles Price, on taking leave of the Corporation.]

[† At a subsequent period the Court requested a portrait of Mr. Nichols, which was gladly presented by his son, and is now in their Court-room. See p. 460.]

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Engraved by Chas. Has

FRONTIER,
1871
1872

elder Basire, used in the quarto edition of "Bowyer's Life," that an impression of it may be constantly given to every annuitant under Mr. Bowyer's will.

On the 8th of January, 1807, by an accidental fall in his printing-office at Red Lion Passage, Mr. Nichols had one of his thighs fractured; and on the 8th February, 1808, he experienced a far greater calamity, respecting not only himself but the public, in the destruction, by fire, of his printing-office and warehouses, with the whole of their valuable contents. "Under these accumulated misfortunes," we use his own words, "sufficient to have overwhelmed a much stronger mind, he was supported by the consolatory balm of friendship, and offers of unlimited pecuniary assistance; till, cheered by unequivocal marks of public and private approbation (not to mention motives of a higher and far superior nature),* he had the resolution to apply with redoubled diligence to literary and typographical labours."

It would be difficult perhaps to find many instances of a "stronger mind" than Mr. Nichols displayed, at his advanced age, while suffering under both the above calamities. In the case of the fracture, the present writer had an opportunity to witness an instance of patient endurance and of placid temper which he can never forget. Only three days after the accident, he found Mr. Nichols, supported by the surgical apparatus usual on such occasions, calmly reading the proof of a long article which he had that morning dictated to one of his daughters, respecting the life and death of his old friend Isaac Reed, which went to press as he left it, and indeed wanted no correction.† This accident left some portion of lameness, and abridged his usual exercise, but his general health was little impaired, and his vigour of mind remained unabated, when he had to endure the severer trial of the destruction of his printing-office and warehouses.

This, it might have been naturally expected, would have indisposed him for all future labours. He was now in his sixty-third year, and could not be far from the age when "the grasshopper is a burthen." For fifty years he had led a life of indefatigable application, and had produced from his own efforts works enough to have established character and content ambition. He was not desirous of accumulating wealth, and the reward of his industry had been tardy; but it seemed now approaching, and he had reason to expect a gradual advantage from his various productions, and a liberal encouragement in his future efforts. It was therefore a bitter disappointment, when, at the close of a cheerful day, and reposing in the society of his family, he heard that his whole property was consumed in a few short hours.

The present writer had on this occasion a striking proof of the uncertainty of sublunary enjoyments. In the afternoon of that fatal

* Here Mr. Nichols quotes a passage from Bishop Hough, "I thank God, I had the hope of a Christian, and that supported me."

† See Gent. Mag. January, 1807, p. 80.

day, Mr. Nichols sent to him one of the most lively letters he had ever received. On the following morning, he hastened to visit Mr. Nichols, and found him, as was to be expected, in a state of considerable depression; but in a few days his mind appeared to have recovered its tone. He felt the power of consolation, and was excited to fresh activity. Thus, in two remarkable instances, he displayed a temper and courage rarely to be found; in the case of his personal accident, when his recovery was doubtful, and of his subsequent calamity, when his loss was irreparable.*

Hopeless as such a return to accustomed pursuits may appear, Mr. Nichols resumed his labours with an energy equal to what he had ever displayed when in the prime of life. Besides completing his "History of the County of Leicester," already mentioned, he returned to his "Life of Bowyer," of which one volume had been printed, but not published, just before his fire, under the title of "Literary Anecdotes of the Eighteenth Century, comprising Biographical Memoirs of William Bowyer, Printer, F.S.A. and many of his learned friends; an incidental view of the progress and advancement of Literature in this Kingdom during the last century; and Biographical Anecdotes of a considerable number of eminent Writers and ingenious Artists."

This he lived to extend to nine large volumes, 8vo.; to which he afterwards, finding materials increase from all quarters, added four volumes, under the title of "Illustrations of the Literary History of the Eighteenth Century, consisting of authentic Memoirs and Original Letters of Eminent Persons; and intended as a sequel to the Literary Anecdotes." It was one of the last actions of his life, to show the writer of this memoir a fifth volume nearly printed, and to announce a sixth volume in preparation.† Of these it is hoped the public will not be long deprived, as Mr. Nichols had the happiness to leave a son, fully acquainted with his designs, equally respected by his friends and correspondents, and amply qualified to perpetuate the reputation which has attached to his name.

It is very difficult for the present writer to speak of this extraordinary and satisfactory work in measured terms. Himself an ardent lover of, and an humble inquirer into, the biography of Great Britain, he has enjoyed in this extensive collection a fund of information which it would be in vain to seek elsewhere. It is original in its plan and in its execution, nor perhaps will there soon arise an editor, to whom manuscripts of the most confidential kind, epistolary correspondence, and other precious records will be intrusted with

* Some particulars of the valuable works destroyed by this fire, all of which are now difficult to be procured even at a high price, may be seen in the *Gent. Mag.* 1808, p. 99.

† [The "Illustrations of Literary History" are now completed in eight volumes.]

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JOHN NICHOLS, ESQ. F.S.A.

*Author of the History, Travels, and Antiquities of the County of Devon
and Editor of the Gentleman's Magazine*

Born 1713. Died 1827.

equal certainty of their being given to the public accurately and minutely, and yet free from injury to the characters of the deceased, or the feelings of the living.

By the vast accumulation of literary correspondence in these volumes, Mr. Nichols has released the biographical inquirer from much of the uncertainty of vague report, and has in a great measure brought him near to the gratification of a personal acquaintance. These records embrace the memoirs of almost all the learned men of the eighteenth century, and there are scarce any of that class with whom Mr. Nichols's volumes have not made us more intimate. Candid biographers of future times must be ready to acknowledge with gratitude that their obligations are incalculable. Already indeed the public has done justice to the merits of this work; for of all Mr. Nichols's publications it has been the most successful, and is soon likely to be one of the *recherchés* among book collectors. As in the present memoir we have confined ourselves to the notice of such of his various labours as involve somewhat of his personal character, we may refer to the "Anecdotes" and "Illustrations" for many traits of the most amiable kind, which will now be viewed with affectionate interest by those who knew him, and will ensure the highest respect from those who had not that happiness.

The fourth volume of the "Illustrations" was published in 1822; before which he had published, among other works, "Hardinge's Latin, Greek, and English Poems," 8vo. 1818; "Miscellaneous Works of George Hardinge, Esq. 1819," 3 vols. 8vo.; a new edition of his "Progresses of Queen Elizabeth," with considerable additions, 3 vols. 4to.; and the greater portion of the "Progresses of King James the First," 4 vols. 4to. which had engaged his attention almost to the hour of his death. These are both works of great curiosity, comprehend a great many rare and valuable fragments of royal history, a large collection of rare tracts, both in verse and prose, and much illustration of the manners and customs of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.*

In Mr. Nichols's death, which took place on Sunday, Nov. 26, there was much cause for affliction, and much to afford consolation. It was sudden beyond most instances we have ever heard of. He had passed some cheerful hours with his family, and was retiring to rest about 10 o'clock at night. He had reached a step or two of the lower staircase, accompanied by his eldest daughter, when he said, but with no particular alteration of voice, "Give me your hand," and instantly, but gently, sunk down on his knees, and expired without a sigh or groan, or any symptom of suffering.

* [In these curious and important works, Mr. Nichols (then in old age) was materially assisted by his grandson, a youth fresh from Merchant-tailors' School, by whom the second work was completed.]

On the Monday before, he complained as if he had caught cold ; and on Thursday, when the writer of this memoir saw him for the last time, he mentioned something of the kind, but said nothing of pain, or of any internal feeling that could give alarm. Before parting he conversed in his usual lively manner, about many things past and to come, and, when the interview ended, he bid his visitor farewell, as one whom he fully expected to see, with some other friends, within a few days. He had no presentiment of death, and during his last week wrote two or three articles for the Magazine with his accustomed ease and spirit.

Sudden as his death was, and there is something in sudden death to which no argument can reconcile the greater part of survivors, it could not fail even upon a slight reflection to administer consolation. When the first impression was over, it was felt as a great blessing that Mr. Nichols had outlived the common age of man with entire exemption from the pains and infirmities he had witnessed in the case of some of his dearest friends. There was here none of that imbecility so afflicting to friends and relatives ; memory and judgment were strong to the last.

For several years he had been accustomed to write some Lines on the return of his birth-day, for the amusement of his family. These were generally contemplative and serious, affectionate as regarding his family, and pious as regarding himself, his advanced age, his probable dissolution, and his firm reliance on the merits of his Redeemer. All came from the heart, and delighted those whom he wished to delight, a family eminent for mutual affection. The last of these verses, printed in the Magazine for 1824, may be considered as his dying words and his dying prayer.

His old age, at whatever period the reader may date it, imposed no necessity of leaving off his accustomed employments, or discontinuing his intercourse with society. He had no chronic disorder, hereditary or acquired, and his occasional illnesses were of short duration. He was always ready to gratify his anxious family by applying to medical advice, and was never wanting in such precautions as became his advanced years. His constitution to the last exhibited the remains of great strength and activity. If, as asserted, a healthy old man is "a tower undermined," it was not easy in him to discover what had given way.

His natural faculties remained unimpaired during the whole course of his life, with the exception of his sight, which for several years past had become by degrees less and less distinct. Three days only before his death he made a very extraordinary declaration to the writer of this article : "I cannot now read any printed book, but I can read manuscript."

Although we are not desirous to report miracles in order to embellish the life of this worthy man, yet it may be allowed, and he felt it

as such, to be an extraordinary instance of the kindness of Providence that a degree of sight was still left which enabled him to peruse and select, from the vast mass of literary correspondence now before him, such articles as were proper for his "Illustrations." As to printed books, he had the assistance of his amiable daughters, who were his amanuenses and his librarians. Those who knew the ardour of his parental affection could easily perceive that, amidst a privation which would have sunk the spirits of most man, he had now a new source of domestic happiness and thankful reflection. He lived also to see his son advancing to reputation, in the same business and the same literary pursuits in which himself delighted, and a grandson eagerly pursuing his footsteps. We may well exclaim, *O fortunate senex!*

As much of Mr. Nichols's personal character has been introduced in the preceding pages, it only remains to be added that it was uniformly remarkable for those qualities which procured universal esteem. The sweetness of his temper, and his disposition to be kind and useful, were the delight of his friends, and strangers went from him with an impression that they had been with an amiable and benevolent man. During his being a Member of the Corporation he employed his interest, as he did elsewhere his pen, in promoting charitable institutions, and in contributing to the support of those persons who had sunk from prosperity, and whose wants he relieved in a more private manner. For very many years he filled the office of Registrar or Honorary Secretary of the Literary Fund, which gratified his kind feelings by enabling him to assist many a brother author in distress. Nor was his assistance less liberally afforded to those of his own profession, whom he respected and whom he encouraged, either in their outset in life or when in difficulties.* In all this he experienced what all men of similar character have experienced. He sometimes met with those who availed themselves of his unsuspecting temper and known benevolence; yet he was rarely heard to complain of ingratitude. He never introduced the subject; but, when closely pressed, he would acknowledge some instances in his own experience, yet with great reluctance, and an apparent willingness to have it thought that his bounty had not been judicious.

His literary transactions were uniformly conducted on the best principles. His early associations were mostly with honourable men, whom he was ambitious to copy; and those who had been longest connected with him in business acknowledged with pleasure and respect that Mr. Nichols never discovered the least symptom of what is mean or selfish. He performed nothing, indeed, during his long life, of which he might not have delighted to hear. His friendships were never dissolved, for they were never unequal. By those of

* [In his life-time (1817) he gave 500*l.* to the Company of Stationers (to which 500*l.* has since been added) to be distributed in annuities to four aged composers. See p. 462 of this volume.]

superior rank he was treated with the respect due to the character of a gentleman and a man of talent; while his inferiors found him useful, kind, and benevolent, always a friend, and often a patron.

By what means he preserved the *mens sana in corpore sano* for so many years of unequalled literary labour has been incidentally hinted in the preceding pages. The subject might perhaps admit of more discussion, if this article had not already extended further than the writer originally intended. As to health, medical writers have given us no rules for procuring longevity but what experience proves to be fallacious. All that requires to be said here, and it may afford a useful lesson, is, that Mr. Nichols had originally a good constitution, which he preserved by exercise, and the vicissitudes of constant employment. His mind was always employed on what was useful; and such a mind is made to last. Both mind and body, there is every reason to think, were preserved in vigour by the uncommon felicity of his temper. He had none of the irascible passions, nor would it have been easy to have provoked him to depart from the language and manners which rendered his company delightful.

There was much in the division of his time which enabled him to perform the arduous tasks which he imposed on himself. He began his work early, and despatched the business of the day before it became necessary to attend to public concerns, or join the social parties of his friends. He had another habit which may be taken into the account. From his youth he did every thing quickly. He read with rapidity, and soon caught what was important to his purpose. He spoke quickly, and that whether in the reciprocity of conversation, or when, which was frequently the case, he had to address a company in a set speech. He had also accustomed himself to write with great rapidity; but this, he used jocularly to allow, although a saving of time, did not tend to improve his hand.

Upon the whole, if usefulness be a test of merit, no man in our days has conferred more important favours on the republic of letters.

Mr. Nichols was twice married. First, in 1766, to Anne, daughter of Mr. William Cradock. She died in 1776, leaving two daughters: 1. Anne, married to the Rev. John Pridden, M.A. F.S.A. who died in 1815; 2. Sarah (who died unmarried at Highbury Place, Jan. 1843). Secondly, in 1778, to Martha, daughter of Mr. William Green, of Hincley, in Leicestershire. She died in 1788, leaving one son, John Bowyer Nichols, Esq. and four daughters.*

He was interred in Islington church-yard, where his parents and all his children who died before him are deposited. Mr. Nichols, at the

* [1. Martha-Sadelbia, who died April 19, 1816, aged 33; 2. Mary, the wife of John Morgan, Esq. who died August 1, 1850, aged 66, leaving five sons and two daughters; (Mr. John Morgan died April 17, 1832, aged 48;) 3. Isabella Nichols, living in 1857; and 4. Anne-Susanna, who died March 17, 1853, aged 65.]

time of his death, was probably the oldest native of Islington, and his grave is only a very few yards from the house in which he was born.

His funeral was (as he would have wished) as private as possible; attended only by *all* his male relatives who had arrived at man's estate, and by his attached friends, James and William Morgan, and William Herrick, Esqrs.; William Tooke, Esq. F.R.S.; Alexander Chalmers, Esq. F.S.A.; Henry Ellis, Esq. F.R.S.; Charles and Robert Baldwin, George Woodfall, and J. Jeaffreson, Esqrs.*

There are several good portraits of Mr. Nichols:—1. painted 1782, æt. 37, by Towne, and engraved by Cook, published in "Collections for Leicestershire;" 2. painted by V. D. Puyt, 1787 (unpublished); 3. drawn by H. Edridge, A.R.A. published in Cadell and Davies's "Contemporary Portraits;" 4. drawn by J. Jackson, Esq. R.A. and engraved by C. Heath, 1811, æt. 62, published by Mr. Britton, and inserted in the "Literary Anecdotes;" 5. another painted by Jackson, mezzotinted by H. Meyer, published in "History of Leicestershire;" 6. painted and engraved by Meyer, 1825, æt. 80, and published with this volume. Several small copies have been made from the above prints. There is also a faithful bust of Mr. Nichols by Giannelli; [and a more recent one in marble by that eminent sculptor, W. Behnes, Esq.]

A. CHALMERS.

* * The list of the very numerous publications, of which Mr. Nichols was either the author or the editor, which was appended to Mr. Chalmers's Memoir, 1826, has already appeared in the Literary Anecdotes, vol. VI. pp. 630—637. To this list are added in this volume, pp. 567, 568, the titles of some others of Mr. Nichols's later publications.

* [His tomb-stone, on the south side of the church-yard, bears the following inscription :

Within this vault lie the remains of
JOHN NICHOLS, Esq., F.S.A. Lond. Edinb. and Perth,
(Son of EDWARD and ANNE NICHOLS, of this parish,) *
Author of the HISTORY OF LEICESTERSHIRE and other works,
and for nearly half a century editor and printer of
The GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE.

His long life was passed in useful and honourable activity, and he died, universally respected and venerated, Nov. 26th, 1826, in his 82nd year.

[Then follow other family memorials.]—Lewis's History of Islington, p. 239.

The reader will pardon the insertion in this place of the following playful essay from the pen of Dr. Dibdin, recording the little events of a pleasant afternoon spent at Highbury Place; as it gives a true picture of the happy vivacity and flow of spirits with which Mr. Nichols was wont to welcome his friends, and to cheer his family circle. The visitors noticed are Dr. Dibdin, Joseph Haslewood, Alexander Chalmers, Thomas Payne, and Charles Rivington.

VISIT TO AN OCTOGENARIAN.

July 17, 1823.

THERE are few pictures of human life more pleasing to contemplate, than that of Old Age gradually, but comfortably, declining towards the grave. This comfort, to be complete, must be two-fold: first, it must arise from the freedom from bodily pain, and, secondly, from the possession of good spirits and cheerful hopes, resulting from sound principles, and the respect of all those whom we have long known and reciprocally loved. Such is the case with my Octogenarian Friend SYLVANUS.

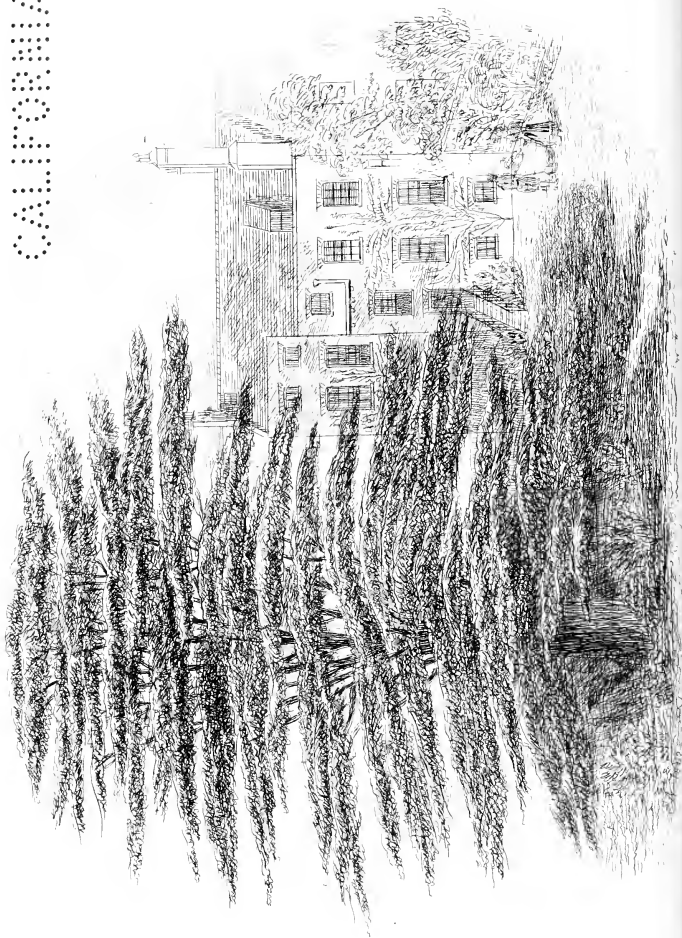
This is the fifth anniversary visit, which, in concert with a few "long known" and highly-valued friends, I have just paid that excellent old man. He resides in a somewhat elevated spot—opposite Hampstead and Highgate hills—with a dozen acres of meadow land before his house—and a garden, well stocked with plants and fruits, behind; not quite one mile distant from Islington Church. Fortunately the day (in this dismal month of rain!) proved to be fine. The sky was dappled; the breeze blew gently from the south-west; and the united fragrance of strawberries and mignonette greeted us as we got the first vista-view of his lawn and shrubs. I should, however, premise, that a party of us started at a given hour from different points, in different vehicles, and reached the place of rendezvous—not quite with such celerity and precision as the Duke of Wellington put his forces in motion to march, by different routes, to the immortal plains of Vittoria. However, it was agreed that the dinner-hour should be somewhat procrastinated, in order that we might arrive in good time to have a promenade in the garden of the old gentleman, and in that of his son-in-law, who resides hard by.

We mustered to the number of five guests. The family of Sylvanus made that number a round dozen. On alighting from my vehicle (in which my legal friend "the Mirror for Magistrates"* shared the seat with me: note well, it was a *jarvy chariot*), I was ushered into the drawing-room, though I made rather a *bolt* for the Library; and

* Mr. Haslewood.

[illegible]

ALBANY



after a most cordial interchange of salutations, it was proposed that we should enjoy our promised stroll in the garden. The younger part of the visitors were already in motion (the magisterial "Mirror" in the number) upon the lawn; among whom I quickly discerned the Modern Plutarch,* and the great traders in classical and theological lore.† For myself, I quietly brought up the rear, with my Octogenarian Friend leaning on my arm, and discoursing cheerily on different topics—of times and of literature gone by, or as now existing. We approached a gravel walk to the left, snugly lying under a wall, and exposed to a warm southern sun. "There (exclaimed my venerable comrade), do you see yon walk? I owe the last two or three years of my existence (speaking from temporal causes) to regular exercise upon that walk;" and, as we gained it, methought the Octogenarian paced it with an air of conscious gaiety and strength—like some old admiral, who enjoys his stroll upon the quarter-deck every evening towards sunset.

The mirthful discourse of our friends accelerated our pace, and urged us forward. We reached a green-house, canopied by the leaves of a young and flourishing vine. "Please God, my dear friend (remarked the Octogenarian, pointing with his tortoise-headed cane to the vine), we will have some grapes off yonder stem, next year. You remember that I mentioned this to you on your visit here last July." I owned that I recollected it; but, "*next year*" to a man of fourscore! Yes, "another and another," if it please Divine Providence,—and why (said I to myself, checking the miserable fastidiousness of my meditations), why should it not be so? Or, if this worthy vine-cultivator be deprived of the fruits of his *own* vine during that revolving period, sure I am that he will partake of *other* fruits, not less delicious in flavour, and salutary in effects." There was comfort in that correcting thought; and so we strolled and gossipped on, till we joined the phalanx of our friends. On quitting the Octogenarian's garden, we entered that of his son-in-law.‡ It was more spacious, and stocked with a greater variety of fruits. The strawberry, of various species, blushed here; the raspberry reddened there; gooseberries, larger than the largest pearls "in an Æthiop's ear," hung down in crimson or green globules, by the side of a well-trimmed path. Here, the ripening currants showed their ruby or amber clusters: there, again, grew the stately artichoke, and the up-rising celery. Meanwhile, the full-flowered cauliflower, the Knight-pea, of Brobdignagian altitude, the Windsor-bean, begirt by the incipient kidney—each and all seemed clad in full luxuriance, and giving promise of plenteous fare. Nor be the daintier fruits of melon and cucumber omitted: for here they were—the former, bursting their rocky integuments; the latter, thin,

* Mr. Chalmers.

† Mr. T. Paine and Mr. C. Rivington.

‡ Mr. John Morgan.

tapering, and reminding us of *turbot* enjoyments. Above, glistened the cherry; while the walls were concealed by trees of the apricot, peach, and fig species:

And dark,

Beneath his ample leaf, the luscious fig.

So sings Thomson. But the shout of young voices was heard. The Octogenarian's grand-children were abroad. In fact, we noticed three or four of them, running, walking, or being drawn in a cart; accompanied by a due body-guard of nursery-maids. Thus we strolled, ate strawberries, patted the children's cheeks, now praised the weather, and now the garden, till the dinner was announced in due form. I made another effort for the Library, and we had actually got possession of it for five minutes; but the announce of dinner pursued us even into that peaceful haunt! To resist, or tarry longer, were fruitless: and so we marched, a procession of twelve, into a well-proportioned dining-room, and sat down to an excellently furnished dinner. I soon recognised my friend the cucumber, in the wake of the turbot. But it were equally rude and profitless to describe a dinner—supplied by the hand of hospitality, and demolished by hungry stomachs, and grateful hearts. The Rhenish wine, in two poplar-shaped bottles, did not fail to allay thirst and excite applause. 'Twas the savings of the last clear drippings from the Heidelberg Tun. Sempronius* loved the Madeira, and the Modern Plutarch cleaved to the sherry. There was variety for all tastes, and more than a sufficiency for all cravings.

The daughters, and the son, and the son-in-law, and the grandson of the Octogenarian, all mingled in discourse; all quaffed the juice of the vine (but not of that in the garden); were all merry, and yet sober and wise. Such a day of joyance is not of ordinary occurrence. And how fared the Octogenarian? As gay as the gayest—as hearty as the heartiest—as happy as the happiest: complaining only that he could not *exactly* see when the juice of the grape had reached the brim of the glass. But what signifies this dimness of sight, when one thinks of that perfection of *intellectual* vision which all his friends acknowledge it is *his* happiness to enjoy?

The shades of night were now, however, falling apace:

(Majoresque cadunt altis de montibus umbræ.)

A string of jarvies enfiladed the doorway. We had our coffee and tea; exchanged fair words with our fair companions; talked over the too swiftly-flown revelries; planned another Anniversary Visit; and at half-past ten precisely took our departures, but *not*

————— for fresh woods and pastures new.

No: ere the clock struck twelve, we were all (with one exception) immured within the walls of London, about to repose on mattrass-

* Mr. Haslewood.

mounted beds ; for, in the month of July, I do contend that the bed should succumb to the mattress. And how sinks to repose the Father and Son ? I hear, in the prayers of the former, the language of Thomson :

Father of light and life, thou good Supreme !
O, teach me what is good, teach me Thyself !

and in those of the latter something that reminds me of the filial piety of Pope :

Me let the tender office long engage,
To rock the cradle of reposing age ;
With lenient arts extend a Father's breath,
Make languor smile, and smooth the bed of death.

CAPRICORNUS.

It is scarcely necessary to remark how grateful the family of Mr. Nichols were made by the receipt of the preceding Memoir, which was also cordially welcomed by his numerous friends. In the Memoir Mr. Chalmers alludes to the opinions entertained of Mr. Nichols by two eminent dignitaries of the Church, expressed on hearing of his death. On that melancholy occasion so many letters were received by his son that the bare enumeration of the names of the writers might seem ostentatious. It may be allowable, however, to introduce a few of them, as written by gentlemen of literary reputation (since deceased), and who were well able to appreciate Mr. Nichols's talents as an author, as well as his private worth.

From Rt. Rev. Dr. LAW,* BISHOP of BATH and WELLS.

Palace, Wells, Dec. 4. 1826.

SIR,—I received with very sincere concern the account of your good

* For this amiable prelate Mr. Nichols entertained the sincerest respect and regard. He thus speaks of him in his *Literary Anecdotes* in 1814, on occasion of recording the death of his brother John, Bishop of Elphin :

“ Uno avulso, non deficit alter. Not long after the death of Bishop John

Father's death. He was an able, and what is much more, he was a perfectly honest man. We can ill afford to lose him. As an excellent antiquary, as a friend to literary men, and as a liberal but thoroughly attached son of the Church of England, his memory will long live in the esteem and recollection of his friends; in the number of them I wish to be considered, and remain, Sir,

Your obedient humble Servant, GEO. H. BATH AND WELLS.

Law, his brother Dr. George Henry (youngest and thirteenth child of the good Bishop of Carlisle) was honoured with the mitre. He was elected Bishop of Chester in June 1812. Of the estimation in which this worthy prelate is held, the numerous Sermons he has preached for public charities in the Metropolis is sufficient evidence." He was educated at the Charter House and at Queen's College, Cambridge; second wrangler, and first classical medalist in 1781, and in 1812 was elevated from the see of Chester to that of Bath and Wells. He always performed his episcopal duties with zeal and assiduity. In the diocese of Chester he made considerable beneficial reforms; and after his translation to Wells devoted much time to improve the condition of the poor. See a memoir of Bishop Law in the "Lives of the Bishops of Bath and Wells," by Mr. Cassan, who thus sums up his character: "In his style of writing Bishop Law is easy, natural, and unaffected, full of piety and good feeling, often a successful imitator of Paley in closeness and clearness of reasoning, oftener his superior in elegance and animation. There appears little of the *labor limæ*, perhaps too little. As his sentiments flow warm and rapidly from the heart, so his words distil spontaneously from the pen. The great truths of Christianity are artlessly but impressively displayed; sound doctrine is energetically but mildly maintained, and the practical results of a right faith are insisted on, with a perspicuity of argument that none can mistake, that carries conviction to the mind, and makes its way directly to the heart." The Bishop was fond of publishing his professional compositions; a list of them is given in an ample memoir of him in the Gentleman's Magazine for Nov. 1845, pp. 529—531. He married early in life a daughter of General Adeane, by whom he had four sons: 1. Rev. Thomas Law, Chancellor of Lichfield; 2. George, who died in India in 1811; 3. Rev. Henry Law, Chancellor and Archdeacon of Wells, and Rector of Weston-super-Mare; 4. Rev. Robert Vanburgh Law, Prebendary of Chester and Wells; and five daughters. A gradual decay of his powers of mind had for some time deprived his diocese of his duties, and his friends of that delightful interchange of thought and reciprocity of feeling they had enjoyed in his society. This visitation was mitigated by the devoted attachment of his family, by the sedulous attention of all around him, and by the pious and benevolent associations which manifestly filled his own mind when a momentary ray of light was shed upon it. "His end was peace." He died without pain or struggle at Banwell, Sept. 22, 1845, aged 84.

From Rt. Rev. Dr. BURGESS,* BISHOP of SALISBURY.

Bath, Dec. 19, 1826.

DEAR SIR,—The death of your excellent Father, though “full of years and of literary honours full,” has left a blank, which those who knew him will long feel.

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Yours faithfully,

T. SARUM.

From Dr. THOMAS RENNELL,† Dean of Winchester.

Deanery, Winchester, Dec. 3d, 1826.

MY DEAR SIR,—I received yesterday your melancholy tidings of the decease of my excellent friend your venerable Father. I beg you

* Mr. Nichols has given a memoir of the learned Bishop Burgess in the Index Volume of his “Literary Anecdotes,” VII. p. 524, and slight notices of him in other volumes of his works. See General Index, VII. pp. 55, 524; Literary Illustrations, V. 616, 624, 697; VII. 653. He obtained a scholarship at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and to prevent his leaving college for a curacy Mr. Tyrwhitt begged him to accept an equivalent to a curate’s salary. See a letter of the bishop to Mr. Nichols on the subject, in *Gent. Mag.* for May 1837, p. 538, which letter is highly honourable to him. He afterwards became fellow and tutor of his college, and was made Chaplain to Dr. Barrington, Bishop of Salisbury, which led to his becoming a prebendary of Salisbury, as he was afterwards of Durham, on Bishop Barrington’s translation to that see. In 1803 he was appointed by Mr. Addington to the bishopric of St. David’s, where he established a College for Ministers, and made other important improvements. In 1825 he became Bishop of Salisbury. The number of his classical and theological works testify his scholarship: see an account of them in *Gent. Mag.* 1837, i. pp. 539—541. Bishop Burgess was mainly instrumental in establishing the Royal Society of Literature in 1821. He died Feb. 19, 1838, aged 80, and was buried in Salisbury Cathedral.

† Of Dr. Rennell, Dean of Winchester, and of his family, frequent notices occur in the *Literary Anecdotes*, particularly in vol. IX. pp. 152, 730; he is also slightly noticed in p. 611 of this volume. He was educated first by his father, and at thirteen sent to Eton, and his master Dr. Foster pronounced him the best scholar he had ever sent out from Eton. His studies at college were chiefly in classical and general literature, but on leaving college he was a severe student in Theology. In 1797 he was persuaded by Mr. Pitt to become Master of the Temple, where his eloquence as a preacher drew numerous and attentive hearers, and his office brought him into friendship with all the great judges and lawyers of the day. In 1805 he was made Dean of Winchester, and in 1827 he resigned his mastership of the Temple.

As a theologian and a scholar he was one of the most remarkable men of his day. He was as familiar with the Fathers as with the eminent English and foreign divines. In classical loré he was deep and accurate. Horace was his

to accept my best thanks for considering me in the number of those who take a near interest in this event, an event awful and admonitory to one whose age approaches so near to his, as well as afflicting to those to whom the singular amiableness of his disposition must have endeared him.

But this dispensation must be greatly alleviated by reflecting upon the career of his long, useful, and well-spent life, and the important services he has rendered for so long a space to the cause of our holy religion. Of the incalculable power of the Press, either in the production of good, or the diffusion of mischief, every thinking person must be aware. It is my firm opinion, that in the various productions which during so long a period issued from his press, not a line escaped which could be detrimental to the influence of Christianity; but on the contrary, peculiarly in the conduct of that leading work "*The Gentleman's Magazine*," the genuine principles of orthodox religion have been advocated and diffused in this nation by its channel for the largest portion of a century; and even in the amusing and instructive articles of a literary and antiquarian cast, this leading purpose seems not to have been lost sight of. Your worthy Father, therefore, as while he sojourned with us he was by the kindness and benevolence of his heart the delight of his friends, so must he be considered as an eminent benefactor to his country.

Your consolation therefore is, that, full of years and good works, he is gone to his exceeding great reward. I can only add, that during the short remainder of my days I shall cherish a most affectionate regard for his memory.

Believe me, my dear Sir, yours ever faithful and obliged,

THOMAS RENNELL.

From Sir WILLIAM BETHAM,* Ulster King of Arms.

Dublin, 9 Dec. 1826.

MY DEAR SIR,—I trust you will not consider me intrusive in expressing my regrets and sympathy at the departure of your venerable and worthy parent. He had more years vouchsafed him than most men, he held on the even and honourable tenor of his way

favourite, and next to him Shakspeare. As a Christian he was a man of deep and fervent piety, and his benevolence and charity were unbounded. The Dean died March 31, 1840, in his 87th year. Of his eminent son, the Rev. T. Rennell, vicar of Kensington, see in this volume, p. 611.

* Sir William Betham, M.R.I.A. and F.S.A. was a very able antiquary and genealogist. He died Oct. 26, 1853, aged 74. See an ample memoir of him in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for Dec. 1853, p. 632; where is given a list of his works, and an account of his large manuscript collections.

with the uninterrupted respect and esteem of all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance, and of those whose friendship and respect were worth possessing. Although it was only in very early life I had the gratification of a slight acquaintance, yet the urbanity of his manners and the kindness of his disposition made on my mind a lasting impression of respect. His labours in his literary career are marked by such sound principles and good feeling as have riveted that respect on the tablet so indelibly as only to pass away with it.

He has been the vehicle as well as the asserter of the soundest principles of morality and religion, and the steady supporter of the institutions of his country in the worst times. He has left his mantle; he pursued and finished his course *sans peur et sans reproche*; follow his example, and thou shalt do likewise.

I am, with great truth, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

W. BETHAM, *Ulster*.

J. B. Nichols, Esq. F.S.A.

From MICHAEL BLAND,* Esq. F.S.A.

30, Montague Place, Russell Square, 9 Decr. 1826.

MY DEAR SIR,—In availing myself of the opportunity afforded me at Stationers' Hall, to bear my humble testimony to the character and virtues of your late most excellent Father, I felt a melancholy satisfaction in the endeavour to discharge an incumbent duty, by paying a feeble tribute of respect to the memory of one whose name was associated with my earliest recollections, and whose talents and industry were admired and held in high estimation by that "*Friend to Accuracy*" who never mentioned him, although personally unacquainted, but with expressions of sincere regard. To me there is a mournful gratification in knowing that amongst some of the last efforts of your venerable Parent's pen, is the notice so affectionately taken of the volume† which I presented to him, in the last number of that *Miscellany* wherein his labours had been so long and so eminently conspicuous.

* Michael Bland, esq. F.R.S. F.S.A., was a partner in the brewery of Whitbread and Co. and was member of many of the learned societies. He married a sister of Dr. Maltby, Bishop of Durham, and was the father of the Rev. George Bland, Archdeacon of Lindisfarne. Mr. M. Bland died April 19, 1851, aged 74. His father was Thomas Bland of Norwich, a member of the Society of Friends, and a partner of Messrs. Gurney and Bland. He was a frequent and acceptable correspondent of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, under the signature of "*A Friend to Accuracy*." He died August 28, 1818, and a memoir of him was given in *Gent. Mag.* 1818, ii. 282.

† A review of "*Collections for a History of the Bland Family*," compiled by Nicholas Carlisle, Esq. Sec.S.A., which Mr. Bland had been at the expense of printing for private circulation.

To you, my dear Sir, it must be a source of consolation that a long protracted life, so usefully spent, was permitted to close so peacefully, affording the assurance that his meek spirit was prepared to meet the sudden and awful transit from time to eternity.

Be assured I shall never cease to cherish a warm friendship for the son of such a man; and that I am, my dear Sir, yours very truly,

MICHL. BLAND.

From the Rev. PHILIP BLISS,* D.C.L.

Oxford, December 11, 1826.

MY DEAR SIR,—Accept my warmest and most sincere thanks for the very kind letter you were so good to send me many days since. It deserved a much earlier acknowledgment; but at this moment, the close of a very busy term, I can find no time for private business, and

* The Rev. Philip Bliss, D.C.L. was the son of the Rev. Philip Bliss, of Oriel College, and Rector of Frampton Cotterell, co. Glouc. who died Feb. 1, 1803, in his 61st year (*Gent. Mag.* 1803, p. 284.) He was educated at Merchant-tailors' School, and was elected a Fellow of St. John's College, Oxford, in 1806. He graduated B.C.L. 1815, D.C.L. 1820. He was for a short time sub-librarian at the Bodleian. In 1824 he was elected Registrar of the University, which office he resigned in 1853. In 1826 he was appointed Keeper of the Archives, which he continued till his death. In 1831 he was made Registrar of the Chancellor's Court, and in 1848 appointed Principal of St. Mary's Hall. From 1813 to 1820 he published his enlarged and corrected edition of the "*Athenæ Oxonienses*" of Anthony Wood. This work procured the editor the greatest credit, as it comprised the corrections made to the original by very numerous learned men, including Bishop Kennett, Bishop Tanner, Dr. Rawlinson, Wanley, Morant, Watts, Sir P. Sydenham, Bishop Humphreys, W. Cole, Coningsby, and J. Loveday. He was fortunate in the assistance of his friends Dr. Bandinel of the Bodleian and Sir H. Ellis, K.H. both of whom he thanks in his Preface. To these must be added the indefatigable labours of Dr. Bliss himself, as there is scarcely a page which does not bear evidence of his patient investigation.

Dr. Bliss edited in 1851 a new edition of the *Catalogue of Oxford Graduates*; and lately published the "*Remains of Thomas Hearne*," 2 vols. 8vo. 1856. This work had been printed for the greater part many years previously. He became a member of the Roxburghe Club in 1837, and was for some years Vice-President of that institution, to which he presented, in conjunction with the Rev. Dr. Bandinel, in 1846, a volume of English historical papers. Few men were better known, and his aptitude for business and great punctuality and never failing courtesy gained him universal esteem. He was both able and willing to communicate the rich stores of the University of Oxford to his friends and the public. In the third volume of *Literary Illustrations*, Mr. Nichols thanks Dr. Bliss for his analysis of the Letters of Bishop Smallridge in the Bodleian (iii. 276). Dr. Bliss died at Oxford Nov. 18, 1857, aged about 70. A good memoir of him is in *Gent. Mag.* for December, 1857.

I now write these few lines in the greatest haste, and amidst the most appalling confusion, lest you should suppose me regardless of your kind attention, or not sufficiently interested in the communication.

No person, believe me, had a more sincere regard or a higher respect for your late excellent Father than myself. I have known him for thirty out of forty years of my life, and his nobleness of mind, sweetness of disposition, his personal kindness of manner, and the lively interest he always expressed towards me, were well calculated to excite my esteem and reverence.

Although in the common course of nature his life could not have been expected to last much longer, yet I own I was much shocked when I first heard of his death, and the more so perhaps as not many days previously my wife had expressed her desire that we might all meet, and that she might know the "excellent old man" whose merits we were talking over with some friends of mine who are neighbours of yours. We had indeed sent a message to Highbury, and the almost immediate intelligence we received made the event still more striking. We have, however, my dear Sir, in common with all those who loved him, much to be thankful for, in the manner of his departure—a more placid and easy death I never remember to have heard of, and it must be no small consolation to his most united family to remember that his last day was spent with those he best loved, and that they had all of them through life contributed to his happiness. For my own part I shall ever revere his memory both as a personal friend and a public benefactor to the republic of letters, nor shall I omit a proper opportunity of offering (so far as I am able) my humble but zealous tribute to his merits.

Pray, my dear Sir, remember me in the kindest manner possible to every part of your family.

Your faithful and obliged friend and servant, PHILIP BLISS.

J. B. Nichols, Esq.

From JOHN BRITTON,* Esq. F.S.A.

Dec. 5, 1826.

MY DEAR SIR,—Had not illness incapacitated me from writing, when I heard of the death of your most amiable and excellent Father,

* John Britton, esq. F.S.A. died January 1, 1857, in his 86th year. This venerable antiquary has left ample records of his long and active life in his own "Reminiscences." Memoirs of him appeared at the time of his decease in the "Builder" by his friend Mr. Godwin; in the Literary Gazette, by Mr. Lovell Reeve; and in the Gentleman's Magazine. An excellent review of his labours, by the Rev. J. E. Jackson, has since appeared in the Wiltshire Magazine, vol. iv. p. 109, accompanied by a photograph by Claudet; and in the papers of the Institute of British Architects a memoir by Mr. M. Digby

I should have written to you instantly; but Dr. Maton was then attending me in a severe fever, from which I am slowly recovering.

His estimable character, kindness of manner, and eagerness to oblige and serve the young Topographer no one can appreciate more than I do, and ever have done. Mr. Nichols was *the very first* to aid and assist me, when I was most in need. He gave me an introductory letter to Mr. Ellis, then a boy,* and rendered me other acts of personal and literary civility. His memory will ever be cherished in my heart: but with you I hope to preserve the same feelings of friendship and amity during life, and leave some token, if I die first, after death.

Remember me kindly to Mrs. Nichols and to your Son, and believe me yours, truly,

J. BRITTON.†

From JAMES BROWN, Esq.‡

St. Alban's, 5th Dec. 1826.

DEAR SIR,—I take my pen in hand to return you my thanks for

Wyatt. See Lit. Illust. Index, viii. 13, 125. Mr. Britton was a frequent correspondent in the Gentleman's Magazine, and shortly before his death contributed two or three memoirs that it may be useful to refer to, as they assimilate with the accounts of his other friends given in the "Reminiscences."

1. Edward Wedlake Brayley, esq. F.S.A. his first associate in literature, and coadjutor in many of his works: he died Sept. 23, 1854, in his 82d year. See Mr. Britton's memoir in Gent. Mag. 1854, ii. pp. 582, 538. See also Britton's "Reminiscences," I. 383. II. 184.

2. Mr. William Henry Bartlett, the eminent draughtsman and author, who was a pupil of Mr. Britton. He prematurely died Sept. 25, 1854, in his 45th year. See Gent. Mag. 1855, i. p. 212. See "Reminiscences," I. 382. II. 183.

3. Samuel Prout, esq. F.S.A. the water-colour painter. He was born at Plymouth, and when a youth, assisted Mr. Britton in taking views in the West of England. He came to London in 1804, and, after a successful career, died Feb. 10, 1852, aged 68. See Gent. Mag. 1852, i. 419.

4. Thomas Cubitt, esq. the eminent builder, who died Dec. 23, 1855, in his 68th year. See Mr. Britton's Memoir in Gent. Mag. 1856, i. p. 202.

* Sir Henry Ellis collected the materials of his History of Shoreditch whilst still a student at Merchant-tailors' School.

† "With Mr. Nichols I continued in friendly communication from the end of the last century till his death in 1826. From feelings of respect and the sincerest regard I selected my friend J. Jackson, R.A. in April 1811, to make one of his beautifully accurate portraits of the venerable topographer for me, and employed Charles Heath to translate the same, and perpetuate it on copper for publication. This is a most faithful, expressive representation of the full, cheerful, and spectacled features of a truly good man." (Britton's Reminiscences, i. 237). The portrait in question is that inserted in volume III. of Literary Anecdotes.

‡ See a notice of Mr. Brown in p. 686.

the letter this day received from you, giving me an account of the sudden but easy transition of your respected Father, to use your own language, "I would humbly hope, to a better state of existence."

I am the more obliged to you for it as I was, I acknowledge, rather curious to know how he had finished his course, not having seen anybody who could give me any information upon the subject beyond what I found in one of the Papers of the last week, which struck me exceedingly, as, I dare say, it did also my worthy neighbour* here, if he were previously as ignorant upon the subject as myself. He was to go to London on Friday last, and, I have no doubt, has fully inquired into the closing history of his old friend, for whom he always expressed the greatest esteem.

My acquaintance and connection with him originated in the month of March 1782, and began by my sending to him, for the use of the Magazine, a memoir of Sir John King, whose sister was an ancestor of mine; and was carried on, in the May following, by another memoir of Sir Ralph Sadleir; since which time, as you well know, I have frequently troubled him with trifles, down to the answer two or three months ago to his inquiry about Irish Baronets, which he so handsomely acknowledged. I wish my communications upon all occasions had been more acceptable and useful.

I am now wearing out, in my 77th year, and cannot at present write any more than to offer my best and sincerest wishes, and compliments of condolence, to yourself, Mrs. Nichols, and all the branches of your family, elder and younger, being with much esteem, Dear Sir, Yours, very truly,

JAMES BROWN.

From the Rev. WEEDEN BUTLER, junior.†

Chelsea, 28th November, 1826.

MY VALUED FRIEND,—The Morning Post of this day informs its readers of the demise of your Father. Venerable in age, and honourable in the walks of literature, the good man was still infinitely more the object of respectful esteem among his acquaintance, and of affectionate regard amidst his family and in the circle of his friends, for his public deserts as a citizen of our enlightened metropolis, and for his private virtues; nor can it fail to prove, to all who once knew

* Sir William Domville, baronet, who, in a letter, dated the 29th November, remarked, "I have lost a most esteemed and valuable friend. Out of my own family I can no where find such another: an uninterrupted and close friendship had subsisted between us for more than fifty years, and we have ever acted in the same views for the interest of the Company of Stationers, who will lament and feel his great loss." Sir William Domville has been noticed in p. 507.

† See biographical notice of Mr. Weeden Butler, junior, in p. 647.

him, a source of permanent consolation at their recurring recollections of his utility and worth, for them (as humble Christians "sorrowing not without hope") to remember at the same time his piety, his charity, his devotion, and his faith. This is a very brief tribute of reverence, wholly inadequate to express with justice the sincerity of heartfelt sentiment on so awful an event—not unexpected, certainly, for some years—of one who loved the departed as the beloved friend of his own father * for more than forty years during their earthly pilgrimage. The mantle remains in your house. May God cheer you and yours! I am truly, dear Sir, your faithful servant,

WEEDEN BUTLER.

J. B. Nichols, Esq. F.S.A.

From JOHN CALEY,† Esq. F.R.S. and F.S.A.

Exmouth Street, 2 Decr. 1826.

MY DEAR SIR,—I thank you much for your kind note, stating the awful suddenness of your good Father's departure from life.

Among my numerous literary friends I held none in higher estimation than him, not more on account of his high attainments as a scholar, than his great integrity and benevolence. Truly may I say

Multis ille bonis flebilis occidit,

Nulli flebilior quam mihi.

Indeed whenever I had occasion to cite a worthy and valuable citizen, he was my constant exemplar.

With sincere regards to all the branches of your family, believe me, my dear Sir, your very faithful friend,

JOHN CALEY.

J. B. Nichols, Esq.

From ALEXANDER CHALMERS,‡ Esq.

Throgmorton Street, Nov. 27, 1826.

MY DEAR SIR,—I am unable to say more at present than to acknowledge the receipt of your melancholy letter, for which I was in some measure prepared by a previous call from Mr. Morgan,§ which was, under all circumstances, kind and considerate, but what he communicated has disordered me much. I am fully prepared to sympa-

* Of the Rev. Weeden Butler, senior, see *Literary Anecdotes*, vol. V. pp. 730, 858.

† John Caley, esq. Keeper of the Records in the Augmentation Office and the Chapter House, F.R.S. and F.S.A. was an able antiquary and an agreeable member of many learned societies. His name appears as one of the editors of the new edition of Dugdale's *Monasticon* (to which, however, he did little else than contribute documents). He contributed several papers to the *Archæologia*. He died April 21, 1834, aged 71. See a memoir of him and an account of his library and collections in *Gent. Mag.* for September 1831, p. 320.

‡ For memoir of Mr. Chalmers, see p. 532.

§ John Morgan, Esq. the son-in-law of Mr. Nichols.

thize with you and your family, for I have lost one of the most valuable, kind, and amiable friends I ever had, and whom it will be impossible to forget, for there will scarcely be a day in my future life, in which I shall not be profiting by his labours.

I endeavoured, but with a very trembling hand, to apprise our friend Mr. Payne * with this melancholy event, and have just had an answer in these words: "I am very much shocked indeed at the intelligence which your note brought me. There are few persons whose loss I can so much regret—the friend of my Father, and a person whom I have known and respected from my boyish years." He concludes with informing me that he shall not be of a small party to which we were both engaged for to-morrow. I had made a previous resolution. It is due to the memory of the deceased, to my own feelings, which are the more distressing from the short time that has elapsed since I saw your Father, and since you gave me hopes that he had recovered from his late short illness.

If not intruding, remember me to your sisters and family; and believe me, never more than now, your sincere friend,

ALEXR. CHALMERS.

Friday evening, Jan. 5, 1827.

MY DEAR SIR,—I received your dear Father's portrait yesterday from Mr. Collier, which is now suspended in my best room. While I heartily thank you for this, I feel somewhat of reluctance in accepting that, the expense of which was not left to myself.

I dined yesterday with the Worshipful Company:† this used to be a great day, on which were invited the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, &c. but on the present occasion this custom was not followed, I have no doubt for very good reasons. It was, however, a great day to me, for I had from every member of the Court the highest compliments on account of the late Memoir. This I should never have mentioned to you by post if it were not very evident that the compliment was more connected with the subject than the writer. What less could I or could you infer, from its being repeatedly told me that I had done ample justice to your Father, and had represented him exactly as he was, and exactly as they had all known him? You will therefore, I hope, my dear Sir, acquit me of vanity in making this communication to you of yesterday's proceedings, since every thing said to me belongs to the honoured memory of your dear Father.

Among those who were most kind in their notice of the above circumstances were Mr. Hansard,‡ who took me aside the moment I

* Thomas Payne, Esq. the eminent bookseller: see biographical notice in p. 504.

† The Stationers'.

‡ Luke Hansard: see p. xliv. hereafter.

entered the room, and Gardiner,* absent, but who charged his son with a message to me, intimating the pleasure I afforded him. The Court was rather full, there being scarcely any absent but those who very seldom attend.

I remain, my dear Sir, yours most truly, ALEXR. CHALMERS.

From the Rev. THOMAS FROGNAL DIBDIN, D.D.†

Exning Vicarage, Nov. 30, 1826.

MY DEAR SIR,—My pen must not lie quiet on the receipt of your letter, though I was in possession of the melancholy event detailed in

* Joseph Gardiner, Esq. Master of the Stationers' Company in 1818; father of Thomas Gardiner, Esq. Master of the Company in 1851; and grandfather of Mr. Stephen Gage Gardiner, now one of its Stock-keepers. See p. 502.

† See a biographical notice of Dr. Dibdin in p. 631. Mr. Nichols was thus noticed in 1817 by Dr. Dibdin in his *Decameron*, ii. 401. "It is with emotions of no ordinary gratification that I venture upon my brief chronicle of this excellent old man, whose elasticity of mind and soundness of body ('mens sana in corpore sano') are not over-estimated in the language of Lisardo:

'I will not smother the impulse which I feel to speak roundly and gallantly in favour of the Living Father of the Punchoon and Matrix, yelected John Nichols, who, septuagenarian as he is, as yet preserves the elastic spirits of youth, talks of his "Bowyer," and brandishes his rectangular-headed cane with all the pardonable consciousness of the merit associated to such a pair of names.'

"Scarcely a week has elapsed since I visited him at Islington. The septuagenarian was hearty, cheerful, and as anxious as ever about the success of his literary projects. When I had given him a sketch of the manner in which the names and memories of the more eminent printers of celebrity had been treated in these inefficient pages, the 'old boy' gave such tokens of satisfaction as led me to hope I had not rashly executed the important task undertaken; 'for,' says he, 'if I am not deep in the lore of Fust, Jenson, and Froben, Operinus and Plantin, I have at least learned the art under a master who, for integrity and erudition, may possibly vie with either.' The labours of Mr. Nichols have neither been few nor unimportant, but his 'Leicestershire' must be considered his *magnum opus*. The Gentleman's Magazine is perhaps the most popular testimony of the labours of its indefatigable editor; and even yet, while his sun is setting with so warm a glow that its declension is scarcely perceptible, even yet does Mr. Nichols superintend every sheet of its composition. Rare and enviable felicity!

"We shall now touch a more affecting chord. In his 63d year (1808) Mr. Nichols was doomed to experience a calamity, which required all his energies as a man, and his resignation as a Christian, and all the consolation arising from the weight of his public character, as a member of society, to sustain—the destruction of his printing-office and warehouses, with the whole of their contents, BY FIRE. The conflagration of one dreadful night laid low his hopes,

it by the Paper of last Tuesday. Yet, why call it "melancholy?" It is absolutely a congratulatory event; for, after a life of so much active virtue, benevolence, and public utility, protracted to such a period, who would not desire a similar departure? and what fitter preparation can mortal man receive for such an exit than that which I have before described. I pass by his private worth, his friendly heart, his parental affection, his popularity among a large and respectable circle of discerning friends—these, and much more, which I want the opportunities, as well as the time, of recording, embalm his memory in the fondest regrets of the gentle and the good. Take, take, my dear friend, all I can give you; a cordial, but not a dispiriting sympathy; it will be for me some day, when the inspiring mood arises, to throw some trilling flower upon his tomb, as I scattered one or two in his walk while he was alive; and I think of all I have said and written on this score with a satisfaction it is not easy to express. Pope's comforting line is well applicable to his exit:—

"His death was gentle and without a groan."

The Scriptures will supply an abundance of more effectually consoling lines, albeit in prose. Here, there, and at all places, most truly yours,

T. F. DIBDIN.

From ISAAC D'ISRAELI, Esq. F.S.A.*

Bloomsbury Square, 2 December, 1826.

MR. D'ISRAELI is sensibly obliged by the kind recollection of the family of his old departed friend, and he begs they will accept his sincerest condolence.

He participated in the painful shock.

It is a melancholy satisfaction to find that a long life, honourably

and dissipated the harvest of fifty previous years of industry and collection. All seemed one wide scene of desolation. The pang of sufferance was doomed however to be short, although severe; within 24 months new walls, new rooms, new warehouses, peace, plenty, and prosperity, seemed to smile around." Dr. Dibdin thus pleasantly concludes his notice of Mr. Nichols (from which are given the preceding extracts):—"But what have we here? The very Septuagenarian himself, with his rectangular cane, ready to give a rap on the pericranium of the saucy Zoilus who dares question the loveliness of the forms of his puncheons." Dr. Dibdin then gives a beautiful miniature copy of Mr. Nichols's head from the portrait by H. Edridge, A.R.A. in which the rectangular cane, necessarily omitted in the Decameron, is shown. The rectangular cane also appears in the last portrait of Mr. Nichols, by H. Meyer, prefixed to this volume. A later notice of Mr. Nichols by Dr. Dibdin has been given in p. xxvi.

* See biographical notice in p. 661.

exerted to the last, with faculties unimpaired, closed in peace, without the agony of a last farewell.

Our lost friend, with a temper tranquil as its pursuits, has left the world lasting monuments of his studious labours; and those who shall know his worth hereafter will be gratified when they learn that his public and domestic virtues, which made every one his friend, were also a source of happiness to his devoted family.

Miss Nichols.

From WILLIAM THOMAS FITZ-GERALD, Esq.*

31, Dudley Grove, Paddington Green, Dec. 8th, 1826.

MY DEAR SIR,—It was but yesterday that your letter of the 4th instant came to my hands, owing to my having quitted my former abode for the house which I now occupy.

I saw in the Papers, with sincere regret, the loss you have experienced. Your good Father's useful life, his upright and amiable character, which endeared him to his family and friends while living, will be the best of epitaphs for his grave. In the full possession of all his faculties, he obtained a fine old age, and seems to have passed from mortal to immortal scenes without one pang. A true picture of Dr. Johnson's fine lines:

A life that sinks in unperceived decay,
And glides in modest innocence away,
Whose peaceful day benevolence endears,
Whose night congratulating conscience cheers.
The general favourite, and the general friend,—
Such age there is—and who would wish its end?

With great regard, I remain, my dear Sir, most sincerely yours,
WM. THOS. FITZ-GERALD.

J. B. Nichols, Esq.

* William Thomas Fitz-Gerald, esq. was a gentleman who wrote verse with ease, and whose muse was always at the service of loyal, constitutional, and charitable objects. Among the latter was his constant patronage of "The Literary Fund," for which society he wrote twenty-four poetical Addresses, which he delivered with great animation and effect at their anniversaries. His name was frequently before the public, as he was ever ready to assist his theatrical friends both of the public and private stage. He published a volume of Poems in 1801, and several small poetical pamphlets on various occasions, particularly on "The Downfall of Bonaparte," in 1814. He fell under the lash of the authors of "The Rejected Addresses," and also of Lord Byron, which was to be regretted, as his heart was loyal, warm, and generous, his manners gentlemanly and social, and for his amiable and entertaining qualities his company was courted by numerous friends. Mr. Fitz-Gerald died July 7, 1829, aged 70: see memoir in *Gent. Mag.* 1829, ii. 171.

From DAVIES GILBERT, Esq., M.P., F.R.S.*

Bridge Street, Westminster, Nov. 27, 1826.

MY DEAR SIR,—I was very much concerned to hear of the decease of your most respectable Father. I can only say, that his name will be handed down to posterity with the greatest credit to himself and to his family.

Believe me, my dear Sir, yours very truly and faithfully,

DAVIES GILBERT.

J. B. Nichols, Esq.

In another letter, dated on the 6th Dec., Mr. Gilbert remarked—

Scarcely a letter has reached me for a week past, that does not notice with regret the loss recently sustained by the literary world by the death of your worthy Father.

From WILLIAM HAMPER,† Esq. F.S.A.

Highgate, near Birmingham, Nov. 29th, 1826.

MY DEAR SIR,—I regret to observe in my newspaper this morning, that the “inevitable hour” which calls your excellent and venerable Father away from us is at length arrived. Accept for yourself and every survivor of your family my most unfeigned and heartfelt condolence; and believe me sincere when I assure you and them that I shall always entertain the highest regard for the memory of him whose

* See biographical notice in p. 655.

† Of this amiable and well-informed antiquary, who died May 3, 1831, a slight notice is given in p. 661. Mr. Sharp observes, in his excellent memoir of Mr. Hamper, that “he raised himself in society by the cultivation of his own superior talents and taste. He had the distinguished merit of self-education, and was the simple architect of his own reputation and station in the republic of letters.” He contributed some articles to the *Archæologia*, and to most of the county historians and antiquaries of the day he was an able assistant—to Mr. Nichols, Dr. Ormerod, Mr. Bray, Mr. Baker, Mr. Blakeway, Mr. Douce, Mr. Britton and others. Mr. Hamper published a life of Sir William Dugdale, and it is to be regretted that the collections for Warwickshire formed by Mr. Hamper and Mr. Sharp, were not incorporated into a proposed new edition of Dugdale’s *History* of that county. Mr. Britton observes in his “*Reminiscences*” that he “was more indebted to him than to any person in the world. A mass of his beautifully-written letters, now before me, is replete with sound information on various topics of antiquities, biography, &c. always couched in terms of kindness and playfulness.” Mr. Hamper’s letters to Mr. Britton have been returned to his daughter Mrs. Noble, who preserves them with pious respect.

nearer and dearer friends are expressing their feelings, I would not trespass on your time, and beg you will take no thought to answer my expression of deep and respectful regret for the Father of English Topography.

Believe me, most sincerely yours,

R. SURTEES.

From the Ven. ARCHDEACON WRANGHAM.*

Hunmanby, Jan. 15, 1827.

MY DEAR SIR,—While I beg to offer my sincere condolence on your late heavy loss in the demise of a most intelligent and virtuous Father, may I be forgiven if I add, in alleviation of your grief, that he had far exceeded the allotted limit of life, as it is ordinarily circumscribed, and still further its ordinary achievements. Few will be remembered longer, or with kinder associations, even among the bustle of this stirring and eventful age, than the good old man of whom I am speaking.

* * * * *

* Mr. Archdeacon Wrangham was of Trinity Hall, Cambridge; and in 1790 was third wrangler and second Smith's prizeman. In classics he obtained the first medal. In 1794, 1800, 1811, and 1812, he gained the Seatonian prize for the best poem on a sacred subject. He was in an especial degree the *laudatus a laudato*; his scholarship received the homage of Parr, and his poetry the still rarer eulogy of Byron. See a memoir, with a list of his publications, in *Gent. Mag.* for April 1843, pp. 430-432. See also a slight notice, p. 608 of this volume. Dr. Dibdin, in his "Reminiscences," thus describes the Archdeacon in early life:—"He was flushed with academic honours from Cambridge,—a wrangler, a medallist, and a poet, full of ardour and ambition; his figure tall, his countenance expressive, his general bearing animated and interesting. He was among the 'crack young men' of his day, and his University and his friends had reason to be proud of him."



The very numerous Publications of which Mr. Nichols was either the Author or the Editor, we shall set down in chronological order :

1. "Islington, a Poem, 1763," 4to.
2. "The Buds of Parnassus, 1763," 4to; republished in 1764, with additional Poems.
3. "The Origin of Printing, 1774," 8vo; the joint production of Mr. Bowyer and him-

self; reprinted in 1776; and a Supplement added in 1781.

4. "Three Supplemental Volumes to the Works of Dean Swift, with Notes, 1775, 1776, 1779," 8vo.

5. "Index to the Miscellaneous Works of Lord Lyttelton, 1775," 8vo.

6. "Index to Lord Chesterfield's Letters to his Son, 1776," 8vo.

7. "The Original Works, in Prose and Verse, of William King, LL.D. with Historical Notes, 1776," 3 vols. small 8vo.

8. "Brief Memoirs of Mr. Bowyer, 1778," 8vo; distributed, as a tribute of respect, amongst a few select friends.

9. "History of the Royal Abbey of Bec, near Rouen, 1779," small 8vo.

10. "Some Account of the Alien Priors, and of such Lands as they are known to have possessed in England and Wales, 1799," 2 vols. small 8vo.

11. "Six Old Plays," on which Shakspeare grounded a like number of his; selected by Mr. Steevens, and revised by Mr. Nichols, 1779, 2 vols. small 8vo.

12. Mr. Rowe-Mores having left at his death a small unpublished impression of "A Dissertation upon English Typographical Founders and Founderies;" all the copies of this very curious pamphlet were purchased at his sale by Mr. Nichols; and given to the publick in 1779, with the addition of a short explanatory "Appendix."

13. "A Collection of Royal and Noble Wills, 1780," 4to.

14. "A Select Collection of Miscellaneous Poems, with Historical and Biographical Notes, 1780;" 4 vols. small 8vo; to which four other volumes, and a general Poetical Index by Mr. Macbean, were added in 1782.

15. "The Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica," 4to; in conjunction with Mr. Gough (in LII Numbers), 1780—1790.

16. "Biographical Anecdotes of William Hogarth, 1781," 8vo; republished in 1782, again in 1785; and a fourth edition, in three very handsome quarto volumes, with CLX genuine Plates, 1810—1817.

17. "Biographical Memoirs of William Ged, including a particular Account of his Progress in the Art of Block-printing, 1781," 8vo.

18. A Third Edition, much enlarged, of Mr. Bowyer's "Conjectures and Observations on the New Testament, 1782," 4to; and a Fourth Edition in 1812.

19. "Biographical and Literary Anecdotes of William Bowyer, Printer, F.S.A. and of many of his learned Friends, 1782," 4to.

20. "The History and Antiquities of Hinckley, in Leicestershire, 1782," 4to; of which a second edition, in folio, extracted from the "History of Leicestershire," was printed in 1812.

21. Mr. Bowyer's "Apology for some of Mr. Hooke's Observations concerning the Roman Senate, with an Index to the Observations, 1782," 4to.

22. "Novum Testamentum Græcum, ad fidem Græcorum solùm Codicum MSS. expressum; adstipulante Joanne Jacobo Wettstenio: juxta Sectiones Jo. Alberti Bengelii divisum; et novâ Interpunctione sæpiùs illustratum. Editio Secunda, Londini, curâ, typis, & sumptibus Johannis Nichols, 1783."

23. In 1783, he collected "The principal Additions and Corrections in the Third Edition of Dr. Johnson's Lives of the Poets, to complete the Second Edition" (of 1781).

24. "Bishop Atterbury's Epistolary Correspondence, with Notes," vols. I. and II. 1783; vol. III. 1784; vol. IV. 1787.—A new Edition of this Work, corrected and much enlarged, was published in 1799, with Memoirs of the Bishop; and a Fifth Volume, entirely new.

25. In conjunction with the Rev. Dr. Ralph Heathcote, he revised the second edition of the "Biographical Dictionary," 12 vols. 8vo, 1784; and added several hundred new lives.

26. "A Collection of Miscellaneous Tracts, by Mr. Bowyer, and some of his learned Friends, 1785." 4to.

27. "The History and Antiquities of Lambeth Parish, 1786."

28. "The Tatler, 1786," *cum Notis Færiorum*, 6 vols. small 8vo.

29. "The Works, in Verse and Prose, of Leonard Welsted, Esq. with Notes and Memoirs of the Author, 1787," 8vo.

30. "The History and Antiquities of Aston Flamvile and Burbach, in Leicestershire, 1787," 4to.

31. "Sir Richard Steele's Epistolary Correspondence, with Biographical and Historical Notes, 1788," 2 vols. small 8vo; and an enlarged Edition, in 1809, 2 vols. 8vo.

32. "The Progresses and Royal Processions of Queen Elizabeth, 1788." 2 vols. 4to.—Of this Collection a Third Volume was published in 1804; and Part of a Fourth Volume in 1821.

33. "The History and Antiquities of Canonbury, with some Account of the Parish of Islington, 1788," 4to.

34. "The Lover and Reader, by Sir Richard Steele, illustrated with Notes, 1789," 8vo.

35. "The Town Talk, Fish Pool, Plebeian, Old Whig, Spinster, &c. by Sir Richard Steele; illustrated with Notes, 1790," 8vo.

36. "Collections towards the History and Antiquities of the Town and County of Leicester, 1790," 2 vols. 4to.

37. "An Edition of Shakspeare, 1790," in seven vols. 12mo; accurately printed

from the Text of Mr. Malone; with a Selection of the more important Notes.

38. "The Theatre and Anti-theatre, &c. of Sir Richard Steele, illustrated with Notes, 1791," 8vo.

39. "Miscellaneous Antiquities, in continuation of the Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica," Six Numbers, 4to. 1792—1798.

40. "The History and Antiquities of the Town and County of Leicester;" Parts I. and II. 1795. Folio.—A Third Part was published in 1798; a Fourth in 1800; a Fifth in 1804; a Sixth in 1807 (reprinted in 1810); and the Seventh in 1811; and an Appendix and General Indexes in 1815.

41. "Illustrations of the Manners and Expences of Antient Times in England, 1797," 4to.

42. "Bishop Kennett's Funeral Sermon, with Memoirs of the Cavendish Family, 1797," 8vo.

43. "Chronological List of the Society of Antiquaries of London, 1798," 4to. compiled in conjunction with Mr. Gough.

44. "An Edition of Shakspeare, 1799," in eight vols. 12mo; accurately printed from the Text of Mr. Steevens: with a Selection of the Notes.

45. Having recovered the MS. of the Reverend Kennett Gibson's "Comment upon Part of the Fourth Journey of Antoninus through Britain" (which in 1769 Mr. Gibson proposed to publish by subscription, but which upon his death was supposed to have been lost), Mr. Gough and Mr. Nichols jointly published it in 1800, with the Parochial History of Castor and its Dependencies; and an Account of Marham, and several other places in its neighbourhood. A new and improved Edition of this Work was printed in 1819.

46. In 1800, he completed "The Antiquaries' Museum," which had been begun in 1791 by his friend Jacob Schnebbelie.

47. In 1801, he published Dr. Pegge's "Historical Account of Beauchief Abbey, in the County of Derby."

48. In the same year, he published a new and complete Edition of the "Works of Dean Swift," in XIX vols. 8vo; which in 1803 were reprinted in XXIV vols. 18mo; again in XIX vols. 8vo, in 1808.

49. In 1803, in conformity to the last will of Samuel Pegge, esq. (son of the learned Antiquary already named), he ushered into the world, "Anecdotes of the English Language, &c." 8vo; and a new edition, with improvements, in 1814, 8vo; and in 1818, another work by the same gentleman, intituled, "Curialia Miscellanea, or Anecdotes of Old Times," &c. 8vo.

50. "Journal of a very young Lady's Tour from Canonbury to Aldborough, through Chelmsford, Sudbury, Ipswich; and back, through Harwich, Colchester, &c. Sept. 14—21, 1804; written hastily on the

Road, as occurrences arose ;" not intended for publication ; but a very few copies only printed, to save the trouble of transcribing.

51. In 1806, he published, from the MSS. of his Friend Mr. Samuel Pegge, "The Fourth and Fifth Parts of Curialia : or, An Historical Account of some Branches of the Royal Household, &c." 4to.

52. In 1809 he printed from the Originals, and illustrated with Literary and Historical Anecdotes, "Letters on various subjects, to and from Archbishop Nicolson," 2 vols. 8vo.

53. In the same year he edited another posthumous Work of Dr. Pegge's, under the title of "*Anonymiana* ; or, Ten Centuries of Observations on various Authors and Subjects," 8vo ; and a Second Edition in 1818.

54. A new edition of "Fuller's History of the Worthies of England," with brief Notes, 1811, 2 vols. 4to.

55. "Literary Anecdotes of the Eighteenth Century," 1812—1815, 9 volumes, 8vo.

56. "Literary Illustrations of the Eighteenth Century," a Sequel to the above Work, 4 vols. 1817—1822.

57. A new Edition of his friend Sir John Cullum's "History and Antiquities of Hawstead" 1 vol. 4to. 1813.

58. A Third Edition of Rev. Thomas Warton's "History of Kiddington, in Oxfordshire ;" revised through the press with the assistance of H. Ellis, esq. 1 vol. 4to, 1815.

59. "Hardinge's Latin, Greek, and English Poems," 1818, 8vo.

60. "Miscellaneous Works of George Hardinge," 3 vols. 8vo. 1819.

61. In 1818 he prefixed to the third volume of General Index to the Gentleman's Magazine, a Prefatory Introduction, descriptive of the rise and progress of the Magazine, with Anecdotes of the Projector and his early associates.

62. "Taylor and Long's Music Speeches at Cambridge," 3 vols. 1819, 8vo.

63. "Four Sermons, by Dr. Taylor, Bps. Lowth and Hayter," 1822, 8vo.

64. Explanations of the subjects of Hogarth's Plates, for the splendid and complete Edition of them, published by Messrs. Baldwin, Cradock, and Joy, in 1822.

65. "Progresses of Queen Elizabeth," new edition, with very considerable improvements, 3 vols. 4to. 1823,

66. "The Progresses of King James the First," in 3 vols. 4to, were printing at the time of Mr. Nichols's death ; and he lived to see the greater part of them published.

67. A Fifth Volume of "Literary Illustrations" is left by Mr. Nichols, nearly completed at the press.

A TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF THE LATE J. NICHOLS, Esq.

LATE in the vale of life, and full of years,
Cheerful and happy was his cloudless day,
When, lo ! bewept by Friendship's grateful
tears,

He slept in peace—his spirit pass'd away.

While Earth admir'd the Historian of his
time,

Domestic virtues were his highest praise,
These gave to life an energy sublime,

A beauteous lustre to his lengthen'd days.

Unfeign'd affection liv'd within his heart,

A store of blessings which he freely gave,
Blessings that he delighted to impart

To numerous friends now mourning o'er
his grave.

Various his talents, as his heart was kind,

The page of ancient lore he lov'd to scan ;
Learning's bright gems enrich'd his liberal
mind, [man.

And form'd his studies thro' the age of

With patient industry and wondrous toil,

Thro' dark antiquity he sought his way ;

And, persevering in the hard turmoil,

He brought its treasures to the light of day.

In later years instruction from his pen

Delighted thousands by his pleasing page ;

A faithful painter of the lives of men,

He gave the history of a learned age.

His labours o'er, he rests beneath the sod,

His lamp consum'd, his various studies
cease,

His happy spirit soars to meet his God,

And rest for ever in the realms of peace.

W. HERSEE.

EPITAPH

ON THE LATE JOHN NICHOLS, Esq.

By JOHN TAYLOR, Esq.

HERE NICHOLS rests, whose pure and
active mind

Thro' life still aim'd to benefit mankind.

For useful knowledge eager from his youth,

To lengthen'd age in keen pursuit of Truth.

What ruthless time had destin'd to decay,

He well explor'd and brought to open day.

Yet still he search'd not with a Bigot's zeal

To gain what Time would for Oblivion steal,

But that such works recorded should remain

As taste and virtue gladly would retain.

And though intent to merit public fame,

Warmly alive to each domestic claim :

He like the Patriarchs rever'd of yore,

To all his kindred due affection bore.

Prompt with good humour all he knew to
cheer,

And wit with him was playful, not severe.

Such was the Sage whose reliques rest below,
Belov'd by many a friend, without one foe.

TRIBUTES TO THE MEMORY OF JOHN NICHOLS, Esq. F.S.A.

ELEGIAC STANZAS.

By G. DANIEL, Esq.

Sovereign Parent! holy Earth!
 To thy bosom we commend
 NICHOLS, full of years and worth,
 JOHNSON'S last surviving friend!

He was of that glorious time,
 Of that bright transcendant age,
 When immortal Truth sublime
 Dropp'd like manna from the Sage.

Call'd to fill that honour'd chair
 Johnson once so nobly grac'd,
 He essay'd with pious care
 Still to guide the public taste—

Attic wit, and sense profound,
 'Mid the Muse's humble lay,
 Truth divine, with Science crown'd,
 All their various powers display.

Many a name, to Learning dear,
 Bears his faithful, fond record—
 Greet *his* mem'ry with a tear!
 Give *his* name the like reward!

Rich in antiquarian lore,
 Pageants quaint, and deeds of arms;
 He from History's ample store
 Drew its most romantic charms.

Blest with candour, liberal praise,
 Years beheld his fame increase—
 Cheerfulness, and length of days,
 Friendship, competence, and peace!

To no quibbling sect a slave,
 His religion was from Heaven;
 And to want he freely gave
 What to him was freely given.

Thoughts of *those* that once had been,
 Sweet remembrance of the past,
 Cheer'd him thro' life's closing scene—
 Of those honour'd Names—the last!

Islington, Dec. 1826.

Lines on hearing of the

DEATH of JOHN NICHOLS, Esq.

And is thy spirit fled, thou honoured sage,
 Whose lamp illum'd so long the passing age?
 Blest with a temper whose unclouded ray
 "Could make to-morrow cheerful as to-day,"
 In calm enjoyment of domestic peace,
 Thy mental energies knew no decrease.
 Tho' time and toil had dimm'd the visual ray,
 Yet FILIAL love did half the loss repay.
 Preserv'd, like Milton's muse, by FILIAL
 hands,
 Each thought, each word, each valued record
 stands.
 Like the great Bard was he with daughters
 blest,
 Who every want supplied with duteous zest,
 And who, as age requir'd their fostering aid,
 A Sire's commands with purest love obeyed.

As with mild radiance shone his setting
 sun,
 Who could suppose his race so nearly run?
 While, without struggle, from its mortal clay
 His spirit soar'd at once to realms of day.

REBECCA EDWARDS.

Extract from a Poetical Address to
Sylvanus Urban, 1826.

By the REV. W. RAWLINS, Rector of
Teversall, Notts.

Heard ye, alas! the solemn knell of death?
 NICHOLS no more inhales the morning's breath;
 But still his works display an ample store
 Of classic taste and antiquarian lore.
 Long will the kindred sons of genius mourn,
 And drop the tear of sorrow o'er his urn.

A TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF JOHN NICHOLS, Esq. F.S.A.

BY THE REV. DR. BOOKER.

WHEN die the Good, Affliction's tear
will flow,
To soothe the heart that bleeds with tenderest woe,
And, round whose urn may we that title bind?
Round theirs who reverenc'd God, and
bless'd mankind.

Such, honour'd Sage! whose multifarious
lore,
Tho' unexampled, still acquiring more,
Render'd thy years, when others' work is
done,
Like the mild radiance of a setting Sun.

To bless and serve thy country was the
aim
Of all thy views: and now a deathless
name
Awaits thee.—Sculptur'd marbles shall decay,
And votive lines of Genius fade away;
Yet shall thy useful labours these supply,—
And while thy country lives, shall never
die.

From the profound abyss of hoary Time,
Thou many a buried truth and mouldering
rhyme
Didst rescue,—throwing light on ages past,
Whose rays will shine while History's page
shall last.

Around the throne thy safeguards didst
thou bring,
To shield from fell disloyalty thy King;
Around the forms of consecrated law,
Which shield the good, and keep the bad
in awe,
Thou, as a faithful Watchman, plac'd on
high,
Didst lurking danger to those forms destroy;
Around the altar, where thy Christian vow,
In youth was made, and thou in age didst
bow,—
The *first* confirming (on conviction due)
What the long patriarchal *last* found true,—
There a Palladium, from all feet profane,
Thou more than half a century didst maintain;
Nor did the lengthen'd term of duty close,
When feebler minds would have desired repose;
But in the hallow'd path thou didst proceed,
[need.
Till Heaven approving, call'd thee to thy
Then, like a golden shock of ripen'd grain,
Fresh reap'd in autumn, from some spacious
plain,
Death did thy venerable frame convey,
Softly to slumber in thy parent clay,
Till by thy Saviour's awful fiat given,
Angels transport it to thy home in Heaven.

BIRTH - DAY ODES,

AND OTHER

DOMESTIC POEMS,

BY THE LATE

JOHN NICHOLS, Esq. F. S. A.

THE following little Poems were composed by their late venerable Author for the gratification of his Family Circle. Many of them were printed anonymously at the times they were written; but they are now collected at the request of some of his partial Friends.

Nov. 26, 1827.

LINES

*On the Writer's entering his Seventy-third Year,
February 14, 1817.*

WELCOME the morn which opes to me
The pleasing dawn of *Seventy-three*.
Lame though I am, and partly blind,
Weak though I am, yet firm in mind,
I laud the Power which bids me live
To comforts He alone can give.
Though many a year my aching head
Has dew'd with tears my widowed bed,
Returning day can still impart
Joy which revives a Parent's heart,
Whilst in each lovely Girl I trace
The features of a Mother's face;
Whilst in a Son I proudly find
Virtue with manly sense combin'd;
Anticipating every care,
My griefs, my joys, they fondly share;
With me their sacred sorrows pour
For friends not lost, but gone before;
With me they kiss Affliction's rod,
They bow to Heaven, and bless their God:
Then hail the day which opes to me
The calm delights of *Seventy-three*.

14, *Highbury-place*.

LINES

ADDRESSED TO A DAUGHTER,

Written on my Birth-Day, Feb. 14, 1818.

THREE years are passed, my dearest Anne,
Beyond the allotted age of Man;
But ah ! how changed a Father's frame,
His languid eyes too well proclaim ;
His tottering limbs too well display
The natural symptoms of decay !
The purple tide which yet remains,
Creeps slowly through his frozen veins ;
Yet not of every joy bereft,
Thankful for those which still are left,
He views, without regret or fear,
The opening of another year,
For still domestic ties invite
To share in scenes of pure delight ;
And filial love can best assuage
The sorrows of declining age :
Such love will cheer his latest breath,
And tranquillize the hour of death.

LINES

WRITTEN ON MY BIRTH-DAY, FEB. 14, 1819.

ONCE more the sun's enlivening ray
Illumines this my natal day ;
But, ah ! how short the term appears
Of *Seventy-four* revolving years !
The school-boy's sport, the school-boy's theme,
Are now but one delicious dream ;
Whilst Youth and Manhood quick are flown,
With joys and sorrows of their own ;
More rapid still the moments glide,
As Age steals on with hasty stride !

Here let me make a solemn pause,
To hail the great Eternal Cause ;
To whose benignity I owe
All that I wish for here below,
And hope, from His abundant love,
To share in purer joys above.
“ Then welcome Life or Death to me,
“ I 'm still secure, for still with Thee ”

LINES ON MY BIRTH-DAY,

Feb. 14, 1820.

ON wings more rapid than the last,
Another fleeting year is past ;
And (thanks to Heaven!) I still survive
To greet the end of *Seventy-five*.

One serious ill on Age attends—
The frequent loss of early Friends ;
But yet there live a chosen few,
Whom in their boyish days I knew,
And still esteem—the longer known,
The firmer is the attachment grown.

Of “ wedded love” though long bereft,
I’ve many darling pledges left :
Whilst children’s children charm my sight
With scenes of innocent delight:
Their lively voice, their artless smile,
Can many an anxious care beguile.
I see the young idea shoot ;
Admire the germ, the bud, the fruit ;
Pleas’d in their infant sports I mix,
And hail the dawn of *Seventy-six*.

LINES ON MY BIRTH-DAY,

Feb. 14, 1821.

ONCE more I tune the vocal shell,
 To bid the Muse a long farewell,—
 The friendly Muse, whose plaintive lay
 Has soothed the toil of many a day,
 “ Delights no more.”—The eye grown dim,
 The nerves unstrung, the tottering limb,
 The sluggard pulse, the aching head,
 The tear involuntary shed,
 Are warnings, graciously design’d
 To tranquillize the busy mind.

Death, the fell Tyrant, levels all;
 Alike Kings, Nobles, Peasants fall:
 Thus infant blossoms fade away,
 And antient friendships thus decay.

All this I feel, and grateful own
 The thousand blessings I have known;
 And numerous comforts still are mine,
 Which round a Parent’s heart entwine,
 And vital energies bestow,
 Alleviate pain, and banish woe.

Six years beyond the little span
Allotted to the age of man
This day completes—Grant, Lord of Heaven !
A few bright hours in *Seventy-seven*.
But if my earthly race is run,
I stop content—“ Thy will be done !”

Highbury.

LINES ON MY BIRTH-DAY,

Feb. 14, 1822.

ONCE more returns that annual day
Which claims a Veteran's grateful lay ;
Grateful I am—but, oh ! how vain
The attempt to raise a tuneful strain !
The Muse's vivid dreams are o'er,
The ready numbers flow no more.

Farewell " the feverish thirst of fame,
The longing for a Poet's name !"
Content, whilst wrapt in mild repose,
To moralize in humble prose ;
And scan, with retrospective eye,
The busy scenes long since gone by ;
Scenes of alternate grief and joy—
(No pleasure but has some alloy !)

By no acute disease oppress'd,
By no domestic cares distress'd,
Possessing still, though dim in sight,
Some sparks of intellectual light,
With gradual symptoms of decay,
Life's ebbing current glides away.

Thankful for every blessing past,
Conscious each hour may be my last ;
THAT HOUR's approach I calmly wait,
And cheerful enter SEVENTY-EIGHT.

LINES ON MY BIRTH-DAY,

Feb. 14, 1823.

THIS day, with gratitude elate,
 I pass the bounds of *Seventy-eight*.
 Though few, among the sons of men
 Survive to "three-score years and ten,"
 With me *eight added years* are gone,
 Alas, how swiftly are they flown!
 Rapid, indeed, has been their race,
 But still I deem them "years of grace;"
 And, whilst I enter Seventy-nine,
 Laud and adore the POWER DIVINE,
 Who reigns "high thron'd, all thrones above,"
 The fountain of redeeming love.

With due serenity of mind,
 Alike to life or death resign'd;
 Approaching fast that awful bourne
 From which no travellers return,
 I contemplate the blissful shore,
 Where human troubles vex no more;
 Where pain, and toil, and sorrow cease,
 And all is harmony and peace:
 Thither, through realms of endless light,
 The pious Christian wings his flight,
 "In sure and certain hope to find
 A righteous JUDGE, a SAVIOUR kind."

FAREWELL TO THE MUSE,

BY AN OCTOGENARIAN, FEB. 14, 1824.

At length, bewitching Muse, to you
 I bid a lingering, fond adieu ;
 Plac'd on the threshold of FOURSCORE,
 I tread your flowery paths no more ;
 Nor longer " trifle life away,"
 " Uncertain of a single day."

Lord of all power and might, to Thee
 I lowly bend the suppliant knee ;
 To Thee my bounden homage pay
 On this revolving Natal Day.
 Thankful for comforts long enjoy'd,
 Sorrowing for moments mis-employ'd,
 To Thee my grateful voice I raise
 In fervent prayer, and heart-felt praise.
 Whilst memory cheers my feeble frame,
 I'll venerate thy sacred name ;
 And, when this mortal course is run,
 Submissive say—" Thy will be done !"

Father of mercies, hear my prayer !
 Guide me by thine especial care,

And pardon, Lord, “ for thy dear Son,”
All I have done, or left undone ;
That, when to future life I wake,
I may of heavenly bliss partake !

TO A LADY,
WITH A POCKET-BOOK.

If ever heart, fair excellence, was mine,
Believe me, PATTY, 'tis sincerely thine !
This earnest of my love, then, deign to take ;
And prize the trifle for the giver's sake.

1777.

LINES

ADDRESSED TO SIX DAUGHTERS, ON THE BIRTH-
DAY OF THE ELDEST,

Aug. 3, 1805.

WHEN lovers praise the idol of their heart,
Flattery with truth too often bears a part.
Not so the verse paternal love bestows ;
Warm from the soul his honest rapture flows.

Thee first I hail, sweet ANNE, of aspect mild,
My earliest hope, my ever-duteous child,
To female softness joining manly sense,
Thy blameless conduct never gave offence.

And, SARAH, thou, to whom indulgent Heaven
The choicest intellectual stores has given ;
Merits like thine, so far all praise above,
Firmly secure an anxious Parent's love.

MARTHA, fair semblance of a spirit blest,
In thee thy Mother's features stand confess'd ;
Her comely form, her unassuming mind,
Her active spirits, and her sense refin'd.

Gay, giddy, artless, in the bloom of youth,
 Ingenuous emblem of unspotted truth ;
 Thou, MARY, snatch'd from malady severe,
 Art to Parental fondness doubly dear.

With look demure, and fascinating wile,
 Though ISABELLA scarcely seems to smile,
 Content, the welcome inmate, still resides
 Where honour dictates, and where reason guides.

Too early doom'd the woes of life to share,
 Unconscious of a Mother's tenderest care,
 The gentle SUSAN, in a Father's breast,
 Claims and secures a share beyond the rest.

From a fond Parent, and a faithful friend,
 Dear comforters, accept this last adieu :
 May every good your future lives attend,
 And Heaven's prime blessings still be shower'd on you.

To me, declining in the vale of years,
 Religion clearly points a safe retreat ;
 Where hope of never-fading joy appears,
 And, not to part again, we all shall meet!

Canonbury.

LINES

ON THE DEATH OF A DAUGHTER.

TAKE, dearest MARTHA, to the realms above,
The last fond blessing of a Father's love ;
No longer throbs thy pure, thy gentle heart,
Martha, farewell ! by Heaven's decree we part.
Clos'd are those eyes where radiant lustre glow'd,
Mute are those lips where sounds seraphic flow'd ;
Yet not for ever mute, in kindred skies
Thy meek Hosannahs more refin'd shall rise.
There with a sister Angel* wilt thou raise
Eternal hymns of gratitude and praise.

Worthing, May 23, 1816.

* Mrs. Anne Pridden, another daughter, who died a few months previously to her sister.

LINES

TO A DAUGHTER ON HER BIRTH-DAY.

AT length one anxious thought is o'er,
 For Isabell's a child no more :
 Sixteen's the age, my dearest Bell,
 As abler Poets sometimes tell,
 When, infant foibles swept away,
 Reason assumes its potent sway,
 And, ripening with advancing years,
 In native dignity appears.

Yes, Bell, with honest pride I see
 This truth exemplified in thee ;
 And all a parent's cares o'erpaid
 By charms which grace my lovely maid.

Mistake me not ; you'll hear enough
 Of dimples, smiles, and such-like stuff,
 From many an inconsiderate youth ;
 (Part compliment, though mostly truth.)
 The charms I mean are innocence,
 Sweet temper, unaffected sense ;
 In pleasures lively, temperate, gay ;
 Harmless as lambkins in their play.
 These are the beauties that impart
 Sweet comfort to a Father's heart ;
 Who lives to bless that awful Power
 Which, in misfortune's sacred hour,

When, all my fondest wishes crost,
 The Mother of my Children lost,
 Left not her orphans in despair,
 But heard the lorn survivor's prayer.
 Congenial tenderness supplies
 More than a Mother's sacred ties ;
 And, whilst instructive precept warms,
 By bright example doubly charms.

Oh, Bell, reward this matchless friend !
 Let her attain the wish'd-for end ;
 To see your virtues hourly rise,
 To see you lovely, happy, wise,
 Has been a Sister's fondest joy,
 Long may it last without alloy !
 'Tis yours to bless her future years,
 To share her joys, dispel her tears ;
 By every pleasing art to prove
 How sweet are gratitude and love ;
 And, by affection's genuine rays,
 To cheer an aged Father's days !

May 26.

IMPROMPTU,

TO A DAUGHTER ON HER BIRTH-DAY.

THE morning dawn'd serenely bright,
When first my Anna saw the light ;
O ! may it each revolving year
More bright, more beauteous still appear,
Till the great Power by whom 'twas given,
Recall the gentle soul to heaven.

Feb. 15.

LINES

*Intended to have been placed on the Library door
of the Gothic Hall, at Ansley, the seat of John
Newdigate Ludford, Esq.*

HERE, Stranger, enter, if prepared to meet
A cordial welcome, and a mental treat ;
Here countless tomes of Classic lore delight,
Here Hogarth's matchless pencil charms the sight.
Here then, remote from tyrant Fashion's call,
Enjoy the comforts of this Gothic Hall.

1813.

THREE SONNETS, WRITTEN IN 1814.

SONNET I.

WRITTEN ON THE BANKS OF THE LAKE AT
GUMLEY, LEICESTERSHIRE.

SPIRITS of Johnson, Garrick, Gray, descend,
To Gumley's aromatic groves repair;
Melodious Mason, Farmer, Hurd, attend,
And thou, deep reasoning Warburton, be there.

Groves where, at peep of dawn and "parting
day,"

With mind enrich'd by Learning's brightest
page,

Your CRADOCK frequent bends his devious way,
Whilst Classic themes his ardent thoughts
engage.

Descend, companions of his studious hours;

Ye who, approved, admired, his youthful lays;

Ye who, in Granta's academic bowers,

Inflam'd his dawning Muse by early praise.

Oh! come, and aid his fancy's soaring wing,

So shall Autumnal Songs still vie with those of
Spring.

Aug. 23, 1814.

SONNET II.

WRITTEN IN THE PLANTATION AT
CADDINGTON, BEDFORDSHIRE.

Too proud to flatter, too sincere to bend,
And heedless of the favours of the great;
The orphan's counsellor, the widow's friend,
On thee the blessings of the needy wait.

Be this thy praise, and this thy true renown,
'The recompense of many an anxious care;
A village flock thy pastoral labours crown
With honest plaudits, and with heartfelt
prayer.

Nor this thy only meed, for roseate health
Repays the skilful planter's various toil;
And competence supplies the place of wealth,
Whilst gay plantations round their owner
smile.

Pleasures like these may PRIDDEN long enjoy!
These are the sweets of life—sweets that can never
cloy.

Aug. 26, 1814.

SONNET III.

TO THE RIGHT HON. LORD THURLOW.

Not that Patrician honours grace thy name,
 Not that the diadem thy brow adorns;
 THURLOW pursues a different road to fame,
 Nor the chaste Muse's visitation scorns.

The Muse who smiled on Spenser's fairy strains,
 Or Shakspeare, "Nature's darling child,"
 inspired,
 She who with Cowley's tenderness complains,
 Or Sidney's patriot breast with ardour fired.

Yes, noble Baron, these are thy compeers,
 These thy precursors to Apollo's shrine,
 These the companions of thy earlier years,
 These the prime favourites of the sacred Nine.
 These the best model of thy tuneful song,
 The harbingers of praise which to true Bards belong.

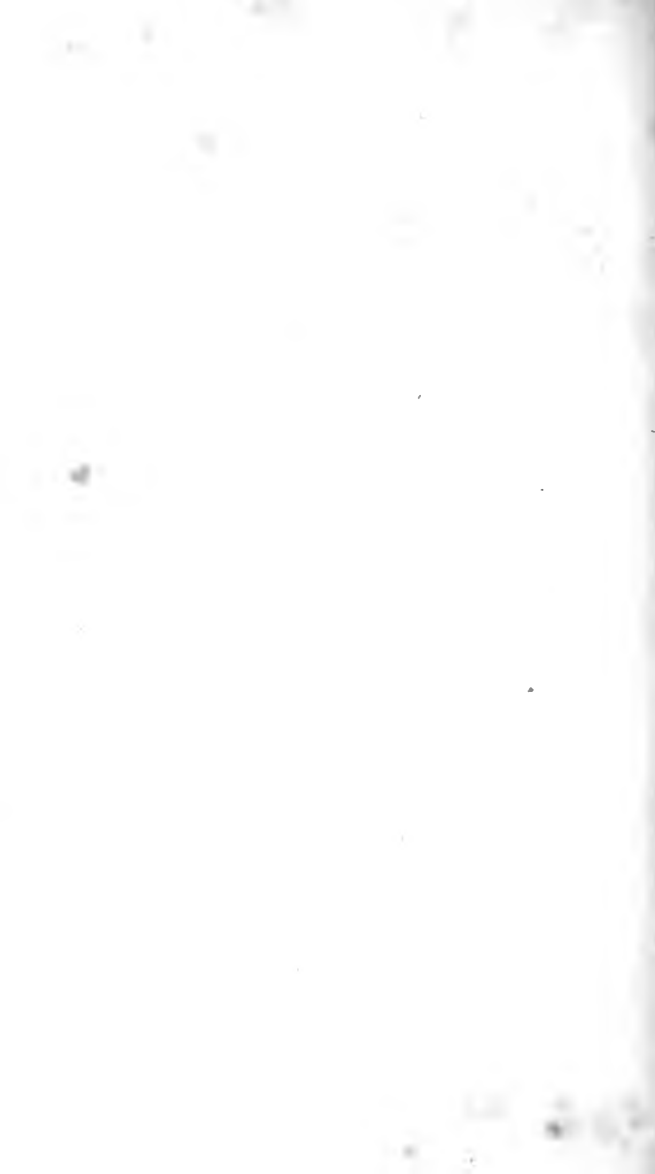
Aug. 14, 1814.

TO A LADY ON HER BIRTH-DAY,
WITH A JAPAN ROSE IN BLOOM.

Go, little plant, and happy in thy doom,
To dwell with MALLET in perennial bloom;
There all thy variegated tints display,
To gratulate the Matron's natal day.
And sheltered from the Eastern blast, to share
The taste which ornaments a neat parterre;
There all thy aromatic sweets disclose,
Eclipse the violet, and excel the rose.

March 3, 1821.

THE END.





Joseph Cradock

Esq. M. A.

Senior Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries;

Born 1741—2.—Died 1826.

MEMOIR OF JOSEPH CRADOCK, ESQ. M. A. F. S. A.

(From the *Gentleman's Magazine* for Jan. 1827.)

Dec. 15, 1826. At his apartments in the Strand, in his 85th year, after gradually declining for about three weeks, Joseph Cradock, Esq. M. A. senior Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

Mr. Cradock was the only surviving son of Joseph Cradock, Esq., of Leicester and Gumley, by Mary Annice, his first wife. He was born at Leicester, 9th of January, 1741-2; and baptized at St. Martin's church there, 10th December following.

At a late period of his life, Mr. Cradock had taken great pains to elucidate the origin of his own family; and the result of his researches was, that he conceived himself to be descended from Caradoc, by the Romans termed Caractacus. The final defeat of this patriot and defender of his country, was at a mountain near Shrewsbury, named after him *Caer Caradoc*; and his flying descendants settled afterwards in Leicestershire, Staffordshire, and a larger portion of them at Richmond, in Yorkshire. In travelling through Britanny, Mr. Cradock recognized the crest of his family, at a village called *Caradoc*, not far from Rennes, and the language of that province still bears great affinity to that of Wales.

Mr. Cradock's family long resided at Leicester. His great-grandfather, Edmund Cradock, was mayor in 1645, and again in 1657; and his grandfather, Edmund, served that office in 1702; from this gentleman is descended the present representative of the family, Sir Edmund Cradock Hartopp, bart.

Mr. Cradock's father was a younger brother. He acquired a large property, and purchased many estates in the Borough of Leicester, and at Knighton and Gumley, in that county. Mr. Cradock's mother, Mary Annice, died in 1749, aged 46; and his father married, secondly, Anne daughter of Richard Ludlam, M.B., and sister of two distinguished clergymen and mathematicians, the Rev. William and Thomas Ludlam.* For his mother-in-

law Mr. Cradock ever retained the fondest recollections. She died in 1774, aged 56; and was buried at Wilford, in Nottinghamshire.

When about nine years old, young Cradock was placed at the grammar-school of Leicester, then under the care of the Rev. Gerrard Andrewes, where he had for fellow scholars, Farmer, afterwards Master of Emanuel, who was some years his senior, and the son of his schoolmaster, Gerrard Andrewes, the late Dean of Canterbury, who was his junior. For both these eminent men Mr. Cradock retained a strong affection till their deaths; and here it may be remarked, that the grandson of his old master, the present Rev. Gerrard Thomas Andrewes, performed the last solemn rites at Mr. Cradock's funeral.

Whilst resident at Leicester, young Cradock was assisted in his studies by a man of powerful genius, and a celebrated Greek scholar, the Rev. John Jackson, Master of Wigston's Hospital, author of "*Chronological Antiquities*," and a staunch opponent of Warburton.† As a reward for an exercise that pleased him, Jackson presented his pupil with an Elzevir edition of Buchanan's Poems, which Mr. Cradock ever retained with great veneration.

In passing through London to Bath, with his father, Mr. Cradock for the first time witnessed a theatrical exhibition; it seems to have made a very strong impression on him, as he to the last remembered with delight the pleasure he then enjoyed. It was Miss Macklin's benefit, and the play "*As you like it*;" in which Woodward and Mrs. Cibber both performed.

It was Mr. Cradock's misfortune to lose his father, when he was about seventeen years of age, he dying in 1759, aged 70. After a short time, Mr. Cradock obtained his trustees' consent to spend the season at Scarborough, where, at the table of Dr (afterwards Sir Noah) Thomas, he was admitted to company, which if not very suitable to his age or station,

* See accounts of these eminent brothers in Nichols's *History of Leicestershire*, vol. I. p. 318, and 503.

† See an ample memoir of Mr. Jackson, in the *History of Leicestershire*, vol. I. p. 498—500.

must have been very inviting to a young man; the Duke of York, Marquess of Granby, Mr. Sterne, Mrs. Cibber, and Col. Sloper, were frequent visitors at the Doctor's table. After figuring for about six weeks, dancing at every ball, and partaking of every diversion, he was hastily recalled, and most strongly reprov'd for his levity and imprudence.

The time had now arrived when he ought to have been sent to college; but at the suggestion of his friend Dr. Hurd, his trustees first placed him for a year with the Rev. Mr. Pickering, of Mackworth, Derbyshire, who had no other pupil except Mr. Burdett, father of the present Baronet. Here he was happily secluded under a regular course of study, which soon fitted him for Emanuel College, Cambridge.

But first he was permitted to visit London, and be present at the gaieties consequent on the coronation of George the Third. This was the first time Mr. Cradock made any considerable stay in London. He soon acquired a lasting relish for the intellectual pleasures only to be enjoyed in perfection at the Metropolis. Theatrical amusements engrossed much of his attention. Garrick was then in the zenith of his fame, and Mr. Cradock was introduced to him behind the scenes, when dressed as Oakley, in the "*Jealous Wife*." This introduction afterwards ripened into a lasting friendship; for they were congenial spirits.

Mr. Cradock then retired to his studies at Emanuel College, where he profited by the able lectures of his quondam schoolfellow Farmer, in Aristophanes; he had a private tutor in the Greek classics in general; and ever looked back with great satisfaction to the lectures on the Greek Testament by the principal tutor of his College, the celebrated Mr. Hubbard.

Having no house of his own, Mr. Cradock passed the vacations of College with various friends, particularly with the family of Sir John Cust, Speaker of the House of Commons; Peter Wyche, esq. of Great Ormond Street; Mr. Banks, Chancellor of York, the intimate friend of Lord Mansfield; Lady Wilmot, of Chaddesden, Derbyshire; &c. &c. Such company was more inviting to a gay and wealthy young man, than dry study at College. The consequence was that, when the time arrived, Mr. Cradock

dreaded his examination in mathematics, (in which science alone honours could be obtained) and, though he had devoted himself closely to classical studies, never offered himself for his degree. But *declamation* was his forte; and he entertained a hope that the young King would have visited Cambridge, when he was to have been recommended to speak before his Majesty, which might have entitled him to an honorary degree of Master of Arts. Of this he was disappointed; and he finally left Cambridge without graduating.

In town he had been introduced to the amiable young lady whom in 1765 he married. She was Anna Francisca, third daughter of the late Francis Stratford, of Merevale Hall, Warwickshire, esq. and was then residing with her grandmother in Great Ormond-street. Mr. and Mrs. Cradock settled in what was then a fashionable part of the town, in a house in Dean-street, Soho. But shortly after his marriage, he spent some time in visiting his wife's relations. Her eldest sister was married to Richard Geast, of Blythe Hall, Warwickshire, esq. a descendant of Sir W. Dugdale, and father of the present Knight of the Shire for Warwick; her second sister was Mrs. Chetwynd, late of Bath, who died in 1811; and her youngest sister, Miss Maria Stratford, latterly resided at Mortimer, near Reading, at a house she purchased of the present Viscount Sidmouth, where she died in 1797. At Merevale, the seat of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Stratford, he passed his time very delightfully, in the enjoyment of a good library, and amusing himself in landscape gardening, a science in which (as we shall hereafter have to notice more fully,) he excelled.

During the honey-moon, he was unexpectedly gratified by the presentation, from the hands of the Chancellor of Cambridge, the Duke of Newcastle, of a Royal Degree of Master of Arts. As this was the first of the kind that had been conferred on a student of Emanuel, the College was pleased to give a handsome entertainment on the occasion. Mr. Cradock ever retained a pleasing recollection of his residence at Emanuel; and in his will bequeathed to the College a fine antique Roman urn, which had been sent to him from Italy, by his relation Sir E. C. Hartopp, bart. whilst on his

travels, in gratitude for Mr. Cradock's services as his representative in the office of High-sheriff for Leicestershire. This vase is engraved in the "History of Leicestershire," vol. II. p. 590.

Mr. Cradock was now thoroughly initiated into all the gaieties and amusements of a town life, and seems to have spent much of his time in theatrical and musical company. The bent of his mind lay that way. "I was born a player, a fisher, and a gardener," said he to a friend, shortly before his death. "If," as Horace observes, "you chase away nature with ever so great indignity, she will always return upon you." There is we think no doubt, that Mr. Cradock would have adopted the stage for a profession, had he not been born to an ample patrimony. He was now the intimate associate of Garrick (whom he much resembled in figure and style of acting); the witty, though profligate Foote, Dr. Arne, Cumberland, Mrs. Yates, &c. Many interesting anecdotes of these celebrated characters live in his "Memoirs." But Mr. Cradock was at the same time admitted to the first literary circles of that day, and such a constellation of genius will not soon again shine together. With the Duke of Grafton, Lord Thurlow, and his brother the Bishop, Lord Sandwich, Bishop Hinchliffe, Bishop Hurd, Bishop Percy, the giant in literature Johnson, Burke, the amiable Goldsmith, Dr. Askew, Dr. Farmer, Dr. Parr, George Steevens, &c. &c. he was in habits of intimacy. "Of Dr. Johnson's manner," says Mr. Cradock, "Garrick was a great mimic, and by his imitations at times rendered Johnson abundantly ridiculous. Tom Davies monopolized his laugh, and his laugh was that of a rhinoceros; but in a plain, dictatorial style, Mr. Nichols, from a long acquaintance, could generally speak most like the venerable Luminary."

In 1766, his friend Dr. Farmer addressed to Mr. Cradock, his celebrated Essay, which determined the question as to the "Learning of Shakspeare;" a more satisfactory pamphlet has scarcely ever appeared. Farmer was about that time a frequent visitor of Mr. Cradock, then in Dean-street, Soho; from whence Dr. Farmer's sister was married to the Hon. and Rev. Mr. Byron, Prebendary of Durham. In the same year, Mr. Cradock gave a service of

plate to the parish church of Gumley, and about that time took up his residence at his mansion in that village, which he had then recently built. It was rather calculated from its size and splendour, for a nobleman of immense fortune, than for his more limited means. But there is some excuse for Mr. Cradock. He was encouraged to pursue his plan of building by a relative, who promised to leave him his property and estate, which ultimately went to another branch of his family. A similar disappointment from another quarter, occurred some years afterwards. Indeed we doubt not, that the building of this mansion laid the first seeds of those embarrassments that ever afterwards embittered his life. The fact was, that Mr. Cradock had never been initiated into the value of money. He came into life under great disadvantages, without a parent's friendly care, and no doubt was frequently the prey of designing men.

At Gumley, however, he settled, and his embarrassments were scarcely known to any but himself and his amiable Lady. He was on all occasions the person to come forward in the most prompt and spirited manner with his purse or advice, whenever either would contribute to public good or public amusement. Whether as steward of a race course, conductor of a public musical festival, or chairman of a canal or other public meeting, he was ever ready, and always discharged those various duties to the satisfaction of all parties concerned.

In 1767, not having any shelter from a profession, he was early in life called on to fill the office of High Sheriff for Leicestershire; and in 1781, acted as representative in that office for his relative, Sir E. C. Hartopp, bart.

In 1768, he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, at the recommendation of his friend Dr. Askew; and at his death was the senior Fellow of that learned body.

Mr. Cradock's love for dramatic amusements has been before alluded to. He now fitted up a small theatre in his hall at Gumley; and the private theatricals there were long the talk of the country round. Mr. Cradock and his accomplished lady were performers, and were supported by amateur friends of distinction. Garrick was sometimes his guest; and Mr. Cradock's powers of acting may be

judged of, by the anecdote, that Garrick proposed to play the Ghost to Mr. Cradock's Hamlet; and that Garrick was to act Lord Ogilby, whilst Mr. Cradock was to fill two characters in the same comedy, Sir John Melville and Brush.

Mr. Cradock wrote only one prologue for his friend Garrick, who was himself distinguished for this species of composition. It was the prologue to the revived tragedy of Timoleon, and is printed in Mr. Cradock's "*Memoirs*," vol. i. p. 210.

At the time of the Stratford Jubilee, in 1769, Mr. Cradock was so happy as to be enabled to assist his friend Garrick in several minor arrangements, which drew from the great actor his especial acknowledgements.

Mr. Cradock also collected at Gumley a very splendid library; among other valuable books, several first editions of the classics. A Euripides, with Milton's MS. notes, mentioned by Dr. Johnson, and more fully by Mr. Jodrell, in his "*Illustrations of Euripides*;" this curious volume Mr. Cradock presented to his friend Sir Henry Halford, a short time before his death. A "*Manilius*," with Dr. Bentley's MS. notes, &c.

Mr. Cradock's taste for landscape gardening was first made known to the public by an Essay on that subject, which he inserted in a little volume, printed in 1774, entitled, "*Village Memoirs*;" in a series of Letters, between a Clergyman and his Family in the Country, and his Son in Town." This little novel was a vehicle for observations on religion, poetry, criticism, theatrical amusements, and other subjects (as well as landscape gardening), and was favourably noticed by the Critical and Monthly Reviews. Mr. Cradock seems to have contemplated a more enlarged publication on this subject, but conceived it to be superseded by a work by the Rev. George Mason, 1795, which most ably and kindly noticed Mr. Cradock's Essay. He, however, reprinted the substance of his Essay in his "*Literary Memoirs*," vol. i. pp. 47—61.

For very many years Mr. Cradock exercised his taste for landscape gardening in his own beautiful domain. Nature had been bountiful in the formation of the place; and taste was every where conspicuous. A part of

the plantation was originally made by the late reverend and benevolent Mr. Hanbury, rector of Church Langton, co. Leicester, with a view to successive sales of timber, for the benefit of an extensive charity. He had a lease for 39 years; but the unexpired part of the term was afterwards purchased by Mr. Cradock. The walks through the plantations for several years being generously open to the public, it was a fashionable resort, in summer, for company from Leicester and the neighbourhood. The views hence are picturesque and striking; and from a hill near the mansion, is a most extensive prospect, from beyond Atherstone on one side, to the extremity of the vale beyond Rockingham Castle on the other. Gumley, from time immemorial, has been famous for its fox-earths.

Mr. Cradock's taste and skill in music led him also to the intimacy of the Earl of Sandwich, Mr. Joah Bates, &c. At Hinchinbrook, the seat of Lord Sandwich, Mr. Cradock was frequently domesticated. During the Christmas week oratorios were there performed by the first musical professors of the day. Mr. Bates, Signor Giardini, Norris, Champness, and Greatorex, regularly attended. The unfortunate Miss Ray, then under the protection of Lord Sandwich, possessed great powers of song, and Lord Sandwich was himself a performer.

In 1771, on the opening of the Leicester Infirmary, Sept. 11th, a grand overture, and select pieces of musick from the Messiah, were performed at St. Martin's Church, commencing with the Coronation Anthem. Dr. Green, Bishop of Lincoln, preached on the occasion. In the evening there was a grand concert at the Assembly Room. The whole was conducted by Mr. Cradock and the Rev. Mr. Jenner. Mr. Garrick engaged the principal performers, and made an offer of the music-books from Drury-lane Theatre. Dr. Fisher, from Covent-garden Theatre, led. Vernon, Champness, and Mr. Barthelemon, sang both at the church and in the evening; and Fischer, the celebrated haut-boy player, was engaged. From this originated one of the best-attended musick meetings that had been seen at that time in England, as the Governors of the Leicester Infirmary continued the anniversaries of its opening, for the benefit of the institution; parti-

cularly in 1774, when a new organ, by Snetzler, was opened. Mr. Cradock on that occasion published a pathetic address, which is printed in the History of Leicestershire, vol. i. p. 523. Jephtha was the oratorio selected by Lord Sandwich, as it had been well practised at Hinchinbrook, and his Lordship and all his band attended. Giardini led; Mr. Bates opened the organ; Norris, Champness, Miss Cecilia Davis, Inglesina (prima donna at the Opera House), Mrs. Scott, Miss Harrop (afterwards Mrs. Bates), &c. contributed to the success of the day. An ode was written for the occasion by Mr. Cradock, and set to music by Dr. Boyce. The duet, "Here shall soft Charity repair," has ever since been much admired. This ode was performed at Hinchinbrook under the direction of the celebrated Joah Bates; afterwards at Covent Garden, under the direction of the late Mr. Linley; since that time again at Leicester, when Madame Mara sang the principal air; and different parts of it are occasionally introduced into our cathedrals, and on charitable occasions.

The band of musick on this day was uncommonly effective; and the performers were honoured with the assistance of the Earl of Sandwich on the kettle-drums.

Besides most of the nobility and gentry of these parts, who were of the auditory, was Omai, the famed native of Otaheite, of whom Mr. Cradock gives many interesting anecdotes in his "Memoirs."

Much commendation was due to Mr. Cradock on this occasion, who exerted his powerful interest, particularly in having the organ properly inspected by competent persons whilst building. These services were rewarded by the following public vote of thanks:

"To Joseph Cradock, esq. of Gumley.

"Sir,—When so many persons of the first rank, as well as the most eminent musicians, assembled at our late Oratorio, have expressed their entire approbation of the new organ built under your directions; it would be very ungrateful, either in the parishioners or subscribers, not to acknowledge their obligation to you. They are sensible this noble instrument owes much of its perfection to your superintendency, as well as the skill of Mr. Snetzler. Your distinguished taste for music, poetry, and

polite learning, have made you justly admired; but it is the application of these talents to the glory of God and the good of mankind (of both which you have lately given a noble example), that makes you universally esteemed. We are directed, both by the subscribers and parishioners in vestry assembled, to return you their sincere thanks, for thus enabling them to have the service of the Church performed in a manner worthy of the occasion. We beg leave to subscribe ourselves, with the greatest respect, your most humble servants, William Carte, Edward Price, William Watts, Churchwardens of St. Martin's, Leicester."

On this occasion also, the old hundredth Psalm was first introduced, with full accompaniments, and was greatly admired. On Lord Sandwich's return to town, this musical meeting became the subject of conversation between his Majesty and his Lordship, and was the occasion of the subsequent grand commemorative Musical Festival in Westminster Abbey.

In 1773, was brought forward at Covent-garden Theatre, a tragedy by Mr. Cradock, entitled "Zobeide." It was in part taken from an unfinished tragedy, entitled "Les Seythes," by Voltaire; who, on the author sending him a copy, returned the following answer:

"Sir, 9 8bre, 1773, à Ferney.

Thanks to your Muse, a foreign copper shines, [lines.
Turn'd into gold, and coin'd in sterling

You have done too much honour to an old sick man of eighty.

I am with the most sincere esteem and gratitude, Sir, your obedient servant,

VOLTAIRE."

This play was well received. Mr. Cradock's friend Dr. Goldsmith wrote the Prologue, and Murphy the Epilogue. The play was published. In the same year, Mr. Cradock returned the compliment to Goldsmith, by writing the Epilogue to his comedy, "She Stoops to Conquer."

Mr. Cradock was much connected with the Duke of Grafton, during his stormy administration, and more than once declined the honour of a seat in Parliament. He was thought of as sub-preceptor of the Prince of Wales, when Dr. Hinchcliffe was intended for preceptor. But the Duke of Grafton retiring from administration, and Lord North acceding to it, prevented

those appointments, which were filled up by the late Abp. Markham and Dean Jackson. With Bp. Hinchcliffe Mr. Cradock passed many delightful days at Trinity College, Cambridge, in the society of the poet Gray and other eminent men.

Mr. Cradock never engaged in either politics or controversies of any kind, but once offered to the public an ironical pamphlet, entitled, "The Life of John Wilkes, esq. in the manner of Plutarch. Being a Specimen of a larger Work. The second Edition, revised and corrected. London, J. Wilkie, 1773," 8vo; with Portraits of "Worthies," viz. Wat Tyler, Alderman Beckford, John Cade, esq. John Wilkes, esq. "These are thy gods, O Britain!" This is now a scarce pamphlet, and was written whilst its author was smarting from the effects of the violence of Wilkes's mob, which destroyed the windows of his house in Dean-street, Soho. Our venerable author had forgotten this *jeu d'esprit*, till he was reminded of it by a well-known and highly respected Biographer, who happened to possess a copy.

In 1777 Mr. Cradock published "An Account of some of the most romantic parts of North Wales," 12s. His name is appended to the "Dedication to Sir Watkin Williams Wynne. This 'Account' was the result of a Tour he took in the Autumn of 1776.

In 1783, soon after the Peace was signed, and in consequence of Mrs. Cradock having suffered from a paralytic seizure, by the advice of Dr. Heberden, Mr. and Mrs. Cradock proceeded to Paris; and in June 1784, went on a long and interesting tour to the South of France, Flanders, and Holland. This tour forms the subject of Mr. Cradock's second volume of the "Literary Memoirs," recently published. (*Gent. Mag.* xcvi. ii. 433.)

Mr. Cradock was fortunate enough to have entertained at his seat at Gumley, the Duke de Lauzun; which accidental civility afterwards led to the admission of Mr. and Mrs. Cradock into the first circles of the kingdom of France. They remained on the Continent till June 12, 1786, when they landed at Dover.

For many years after his return to this country, ill health compelled Mr. Cradock to withdraw in a great measure from society; but he continued to

amuse himself in the embellishment of his grounds, and the enlargement of a piece of water at the back of his house, which latterly he termed the Lake. The following was one of the last effusions of his Muse:

"Inscription for a Building on the Banks of a Lake in one of the Midland Counties."*

Hail, shadowy Lake! whose gliding wave serene

Reflects the beauties of the varying scene!
Here let the Muse her humble vigils keep,
And quaff the gales from yon impending steep;

Here let the year her early fragrance fling,
And glittering plumage dip the hasty wing;
Here on the brink Pomona's blossoms glow,
And finny myriads sparkle from below;
Here let the mind at peaceful anchor rest,
And Heaven's own sunshine cheer the guiltless breast."

In 1815, however, his desire to appear before the public as an author again revived; but he proceeded very cautiously. In that year he published anonymously, "Four Dissertations, Moral and Religious, addressed to the rising Generation. I. On Covetousness. II. On Hypocrisy. III. On the prosperous Condition of Men in this World. IV. On Continuance in well-doing." 8vo. (*See Gt. Mag.* lxxxvi. i. p. 43.) These Four Essays were drawn up as sermons for particular friends; and the last was preached at Chester; but whether it was ever published in that form, is not known, as the author was then absent in the South of France.

On Christmas Day, 1816, Mr. Cradock lost his amiable lady. She was proceeding down stairs, to go to church, when she fell in a fit, and instantly expired. They had no issue.

In 1821 he published a little novel to expose the horrid vice of gaming, entitled "Fidelia; or, The Prevalence of Fashion," 12mo. The story is affecting, and gives a striking lesson on the danger of hesitation and delay in breaking off bad acquaintance. The language is much more simple than is usually found in works of fiction; and this gives it the air of a true story, which, it is to be feared, has too often occurred. The manners and conversation are those of the times when Mr. Cradock was first introduced into polite society.

* See a Sonnet on this subject by Mr. Nichols, in *Gt. Mag.* vol. lxxviii. i. p. 65.

In 1823, a very important step was resolved upon by Mr. Cradock, which, considering that he was then 82 years of age, shows the firmness of his mind, and his honourable principles. Finding his estate embarrassed by mortgages and other incumbrances, he made a noble sacrifice, by passing it into the hands of the gentleman, who, had it been unincumbered would probably have been his heir, on conditions agreeable to all parties; and retired to town with a very moderate annuity. He also at the same time parted with his splendid library. But Literature, and occasional intercourse with a few choice friends, seemed more than to compensate for the advantages he had voluntarily surrendered. He then applied seriously to what he originally intended should have been done by his executors.

And here, perhaps, it may be allowable to allude to the sincere attachment between Mr. Cradock and his old friend Mr. Nichols. For very many years Mr. Nichols had been accustomed to pay Mr. Cradock an annual visit at Gumley Hall; but on Mr. Cradock's settling in London, the intercourse became incessant, and we doubt not that the daily correspondence which took place between them contributed to cheer the latter days of these two veterans in Literature. They had both of them in early life enjoyed the flattering distinction of an intimacy with the same eminent characters; and to hear the different anecdotes elicited in their animated conversations respecting Johnson and others, was indeed an intellectual treat of no ordinary description. Mr. Cradock and Mr. Nichols possessed a similarity in taste and judgment. They were both endowed with peculiar quickness of comprehension, and with powers and accuracy of memory rarely equalled.

Mr. Cradock's first publication on his coming to town was his tragedy of "The Czar." This play was brought to the morning of rehearsal fifty years before, but owing to a disappointment on the part of one of the chief actresses, was withdrawn, and never acted; nor published till 1824. (See *Gent. Mag.* vol. xciv. ii. p. 60.)

The favourable reception which the publication of "The Czar" met with, induced Mr. Cradock to select from his MSS. what certainly

afforded the public no small gratification.

In Jan. 1826, he published the first volume of his "Literary and Miscellaneous Memoirs," dedicated *by permission* to the King, an honour of which Mr. Cradock was justly proud. (See *Gent. Mag.* xcvi. i. 62, 236.) In the latter part of the same year (only a few weeks before his death), he published a second volume, containing his Tour to Paris and the South of France in the years 1783 to 1786. (*Vide ibid.* xcvi. ii. 433.)

Here we feel induced to make use of a letter received from a highly distinguished friend of Mr. Cradock, addressed to ourselves, which exhibits Mr. Cradock's character in a favourable, yet strictly just light:

"I do not think I should in any manner so well describe Mr. Cradock's character, as by referring to the 'Memoirs' which he has published of himself. These Memoirs, in my view of them, are an exact counterpart of his manners and conversations,—of his excellencies and his foibles. He was *all* anecdote, without affecting to know more, either of men or books, than the common run of people, though better acquainted with both than the generality of the best informed. In the earlier part of his life he recommended himself by his pleasantry and talents,—his love of letters,—his antiquarian researches,—his taste for music, painting, and poetry, and all the fine arts,—to several of the most learned and accomplished scholars of the day,—as Bishops Warburton and Hurd, Doctors Johnson and Goldsmith, and others; among whom must not be forgotten that prodigy of wit and humour and theatrical talents, David Garrick; for he and Garrick were a sort of twin brothers, in personal likeness and mental power. Both of them were rather under size; but they were both well formed, and had so much expression in their countenances, and so much grace in their actions, that nobody in looking at them regarded their size or stature;—in looking at each, it was the quality—not the quantity of the man that was considered. And upon the stage, Cradock (for he had a private theatre in his house), as I have been informed by those who had seen him act, in some characters at least, was second only to Garrick.

There was, however, this difference between them;—Garrick played for profit—Cradock played for the amusement of his friends, though to the great detriment of his own fortune. And perhaps his talent in the representing of character upon the stage, first gave him the habit of enlivening and embellishing every thing which he said, with a certain lightning of eye, and honeyed tone of voice, and happy turns of countenance,—which may be better imagined than described; and also furnished him with many allusions which he had the happy art of introducing into his conversations with vast advantage.

“Mr. Cradock was a classical scholar of very high degree; and he had a very considerable library, containing books of the best sorts, and of the best editions; and some very rare ones. The sale of these, upon which his affections were placed, together with his mansion and estate at Gumley, upon his coming to live in London, was a sacrifice he made (and a sore sacrifice it was) with a view to the final arrangement and liquidation of his worldly affairs before his death, and proved not only his integrity, but that sort of pride which dwells only in honourable minds, and will give a sanctity to his memory.

“Mr. Cradock was, moreover, a good neighbour,—a kind friend,—a highly-finished gentleman,—and more than sufficiently learned to be the fit associate with those who were most learned; and he had this advantage over the most learned, that he was altogether free from pedantry, and all inclination to be overbearing in his conversation with others avowedly less learned than himself. With these good qualities, and his great acquirements, he could not fail of causing the opportunities which he gave his friends of visiting him, to be eagerly seized; and from season to season (for he gave a sort of annual *dejeuné* at Gumley) anxiously expected. But his death, which is sadly lamented, has closed all.”

Another friend thus speaks of him:

“Mr. Cradock was a remarkable person. He had lived for more than half a century pretty much among Tories, without imbibing (if we may judge from the last year or two of his life passed in London,) the least bigotry or intolerance. His opinions were liberal, his feelings all generous. He

was properly a whig in his own sentiments; though strictly and professedly he seems to have been, in speculative matters, a man of no party. During the same course of years he had lived in the fashionable world, and in the circles of the great; but, as it should seem, without having indulged in their luxuries, or having contracted their vices. Indeed, not only did his inclination lead him, but his constitution compelled him, to a most rigid temperance. Though remarkable for his hospitality and social manners, he had for twenty years scarcely drank a glass of wine; and he lived principally on turnips, roasted apples, and coffee, and those taken in very small quantities. He had a great peculiarity of constitution, which obliged him to undergo a constant cupping; and he has been known to be cupped sometimes twice a day. Yet under all his own infirmities and sufferings, he had the most tender sympathy with even the appearance of distress in others, and when free from pain, nobody was more cheerful and communicative; indeed it may be said, he overflowed, having a great fund of anecdote, with much of the garrulity of old age. During the last fortnight nothing passed his lips but water. He will be long remembered in the neighbourhood of Gumley, where he was respected by people of all parties for his worth, and idolized by the poor for his benevolence.”

On Saturday, Dec. 23, at the funeral of this venerable gentleman, a numerous assemblage of his friends attended to pay the last token of respect to his memory. The service was performed by his friend the Rev. G. T. Andrewes. The Hon. Washington Shirley, F. P. Stratford, esq. Master in Chancery, L. C. Humfrey, esq. Barrister, A. Chalmers, esq. F. S. A. N. Carlisle, esq. F. S. A. and T. J. Pettigrew, esq. F. S. A. were the pallbearers on the occasion. The body was followed by his executors, John Bowyer Nichols, esq. F. S. A. John Pearson, esq. and William Tooke, esq. F. R. S.; also by George Dyer, esq. John Britton, esq. F. S. A. John Taylor, esq. John Mayne, esq. Thomas Cadell, esq. Dr. Nuttall, and many other gentlemen. Sir Henry Halford was prevented attending by a professional engagement. Mr. Cradock was buried, by his particular desire, in the parish where he died, St. Mary-le-Strand.



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